



Maintaining Mobility, the Mighty Mississippi Ferry

Lansing Iowa - DeSoto Wisconsin

Clayton Burke, PE – Project Manager Iowa DOT
 Brenda Schoenfeld, PE – Roadway Department Manager HNTB
 John Puts, PE – Geotechnical Department Manager HNTB



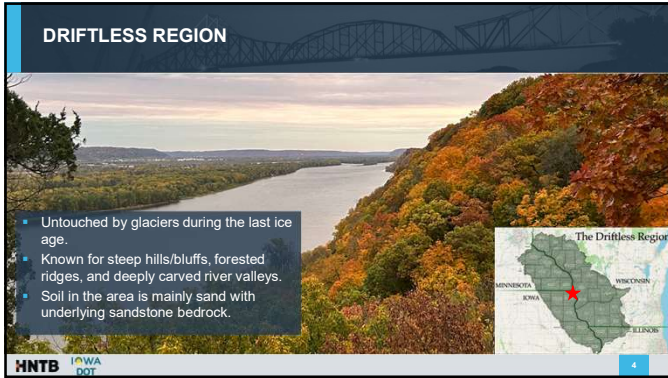


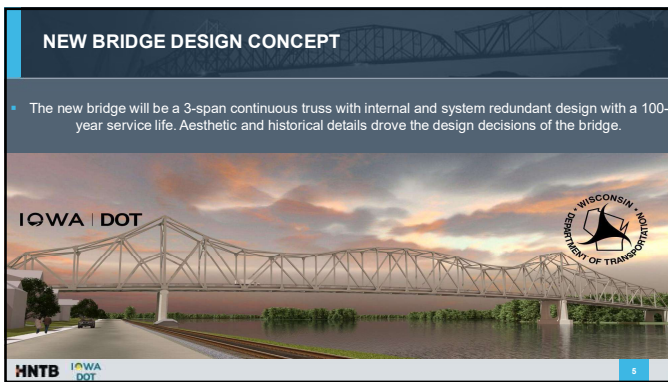
AGENDA

- 01 WHY?
- 02 WHAT?
- 03 WHERE?
- 04 HOW?
- 05 RESULTS

LOCATION & INTRODUCTION

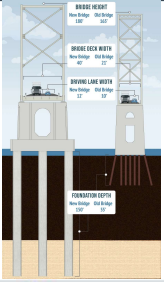








STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT



BRIDGE HEIGHT
New Bridge: 100' Bridge: 100'

BRIDGE DECK WITH
New Bridge: 40' Bridge: 40'

BRIDGE PIER WITH
New Bridge: 12' Bridge: 12'

FOUNDATION DEPTH
New Bridge: 10' Bridge: 10'

Existing Bridge Adjacent Construction

- Movement detected
- Structure stabilization efforts
- Movement detected again
- Structure stabilization options exhausted

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SAFETY

Historic Lansing bridge closes again out of safety concerns
It was closed nearly 2 months in 2024 after movement of its supporting piers.

Safety concerns shut down bridge crossing Mississippi River into Iowa
Iowa officials are closing the crossing after a monitoring system detected an unsafe level of movement in the bridge's supports.

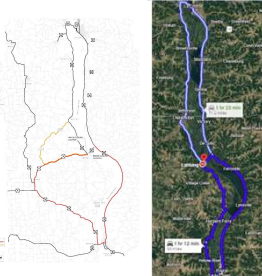
Lansing bridge — the only Mississippi River crossing for 60 miles — is closing permanently
Kate Kealey
Des Moines Register
Sept. 8, 2025, 11:00 a.m. CDT

Lansing Bridge in western Wisconsin closed once again for emergency repairs
DOT officials are closing the bridge connecting Wisconsin to Iowa indefinitely until they can make sure that it's safe to cross.

Mississippi River Bridge closed due to concerns of structural integrity

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IMPORTANCE OF RURAL MOBILITY



Bridge Closure and Detour

- Rural healthcare
 - Patients / workers crossing the river
- Rural small businesses
 - Customers / workers crossing the river
- Detour > 1 hour

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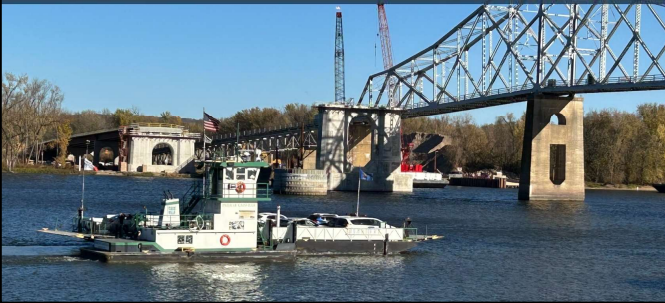
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE AT LANSING

- I9 / WIS 82
- AADT 2200
- 12.3% Trucks
- Closure decision announced July 6, 2025
 - Up to a 2 year closure
- Commitment to investigate a vehicle ferry

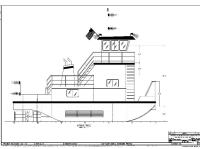


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WHAT IS POSSIBLE?



VESSEL OPTIONS

New Vessel	Existing Vessel	Temporary / Long-term Vessel
Shipyard retrofit barge / tug	Michigan ferry	Lease Cassville Ferry until long term vessel is obtained
		

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FERRY ALTERNATIVES



Courtesy: Flexfloat

Courtesy: ACROW

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CAR FERRY CHALLENGES

Challenges

- 2 Years
- 2 Winters
- 2 Vessels
- 2 Landings
- 2 States
- 2 DNRs
- 2 Army Corps Districts
- Coast Guard

2 Years 

2 Winters 

2 Vessels 

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MORE CHALLENGES

Environmental

- Relocate endangered mussels (IA)
- US Fish and Wildlife lands (WI)
- 404 permits from 2 USACE districts
- Section 10 permit – navigable waters
- Iowa DNR floodplain permit
- Wisconsin DOT/ DNR permits

Railroad

- 10 trains per day
- Front Street adjacent to tracks and loading
- Railroad flagging



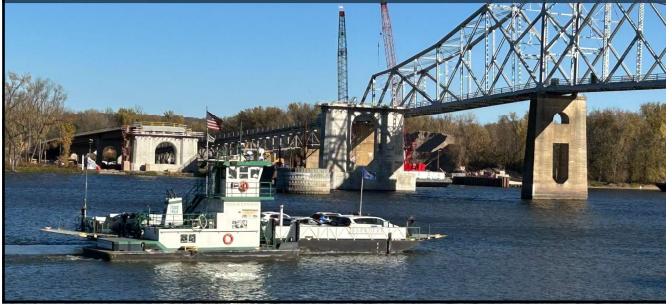






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WHERE CAN A FERRY CROSS?



SELECTING THE LANDING SITES



Complications on both sides

- Vehicle staging area
- Railroad considerations
- Contractor work zone and deliveries
- Army Corps dredging operations
- Vessel speed and range
- Ice breaking contractor range

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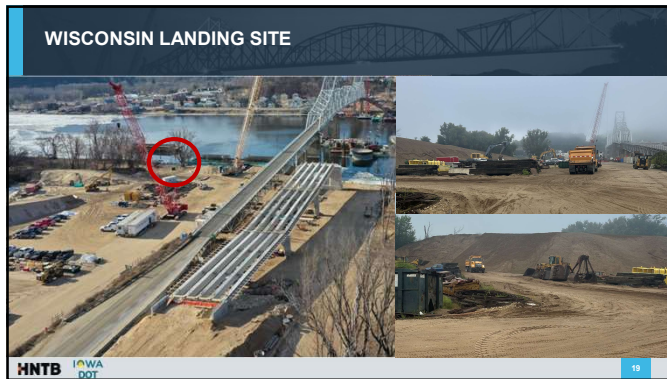
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IOWA LANDING SITE



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MID JULY – MID AUGUST 2025

Monday / Wednesday / Friday 3 pm

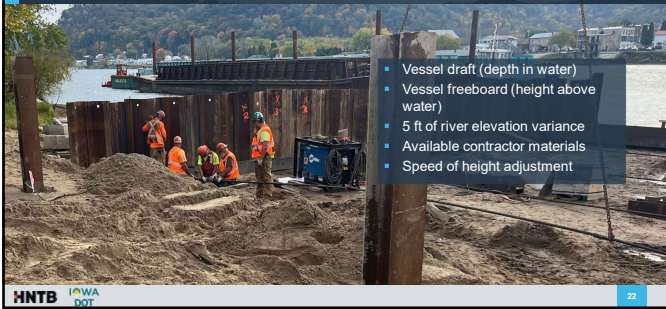
- Survey land and underwater by WisDOT
- Vessel parameters defined
- Landing sites defined / coordinated
 - City of Lansing
 - US Fish and Wildlife
 - US Army Corps dredging operations
 - Contractor – Kraemer
 - CPKC
- Footprint established
- Landing permitting began
- Vessel procurement

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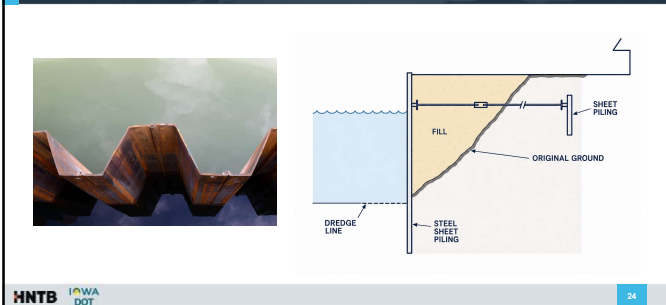
LANDING PARAMETERS AND VARIABLES



DOCK WALL STRUCTURE DESIGN



DOCK WALL STRUCTURE DESIGN



VESSEL ACCOMMODATION

Current barge loading, 11/17/21
 barge 5 ft ramp, from minimum
 water level to maximum water
 level

Plan view
 Dock wall
 Normal Pool
 DREDGE LINE

Section view
 Ramp
 Gate

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WATER ELEVATION FLUCTUATION

El. 624.30 Design High Water
 El. 619.06 Design Low Water
 Mudline (Approx.)
 DREDGE LINE

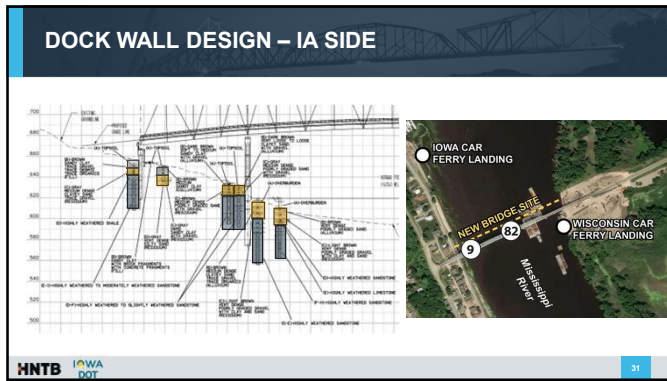
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DOCK WALL DESIGN

8/25/2025 - Received concept from Contractor and material list

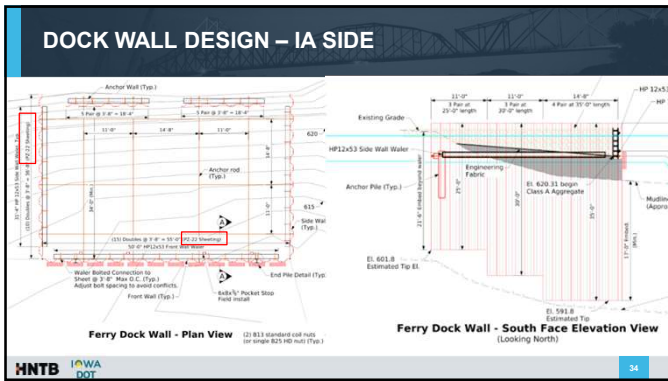
DOCK WALL
 DOCK FLOOR
 DOCK RAMP
 DOCK GATE

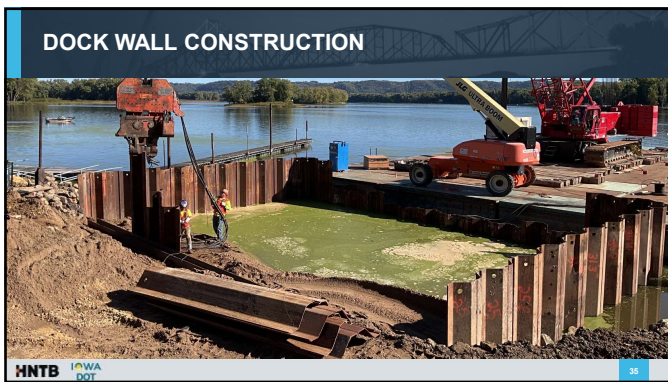
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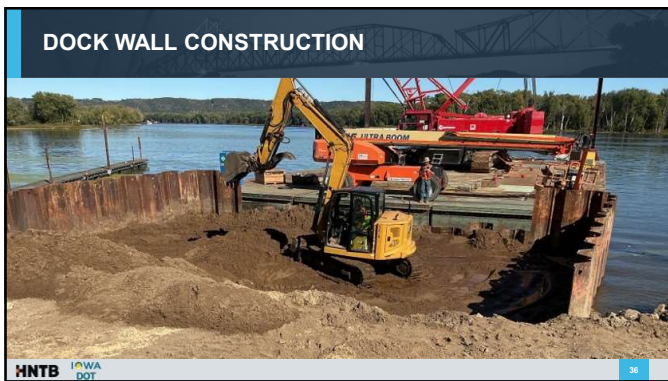


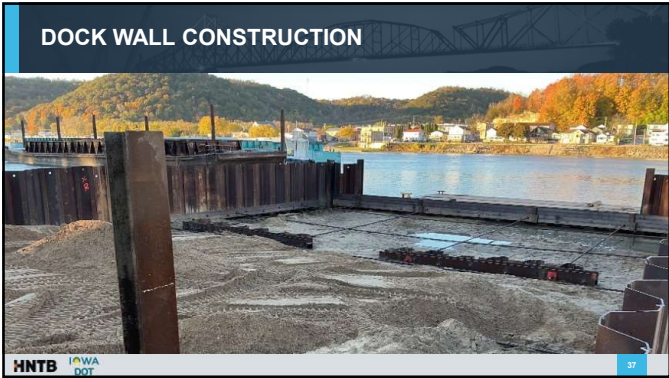


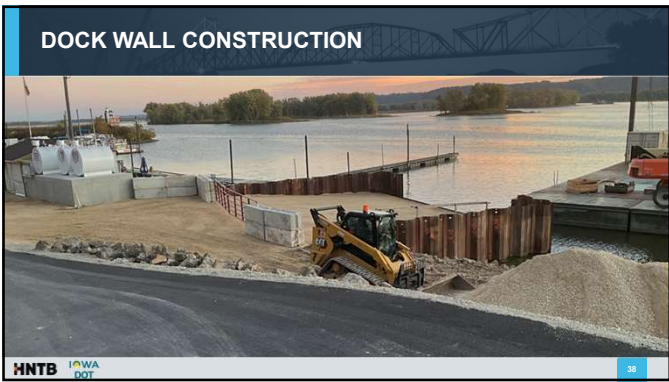


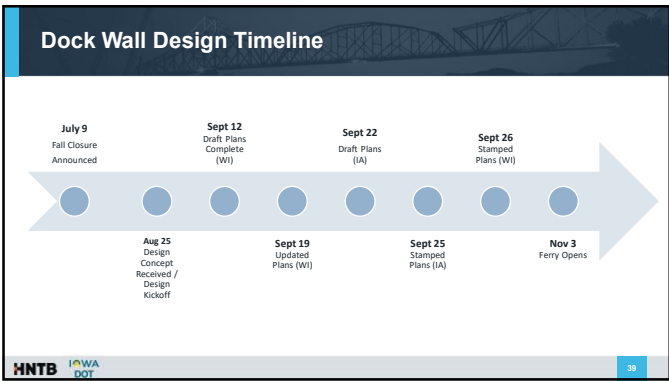


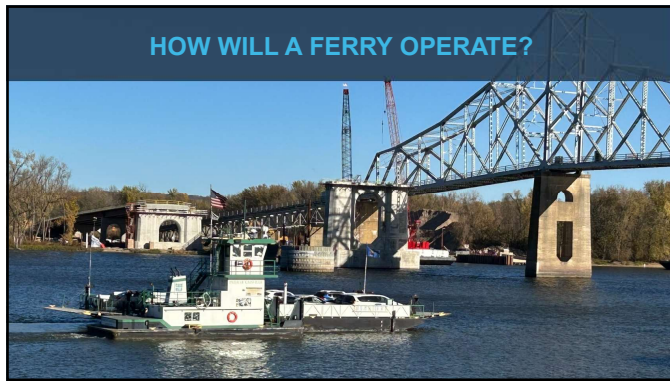












VESSEL

- Vessel procurement
 - Cassville Ferry lease
 - Daily cost: vessel, labor, fuel, maintenance, insurance
- US Coast Guard commissioning
- Vessel capacity
 - Vehicle Max width 8ft 6in
 - Vehicle Max length 25 ft
 - No Trucks
 - No Trailers
 - Up to 12 vehicles per trip
 - “Car Ferry”

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OPERATIONS PLAN

- Hours of Operation
 - 7 days a week
 - 16 hour days
 - 12 hour holidays
- Staffing requirements
 - 1 captain
 - 2 deckhands
 - 2 railroad flaggers

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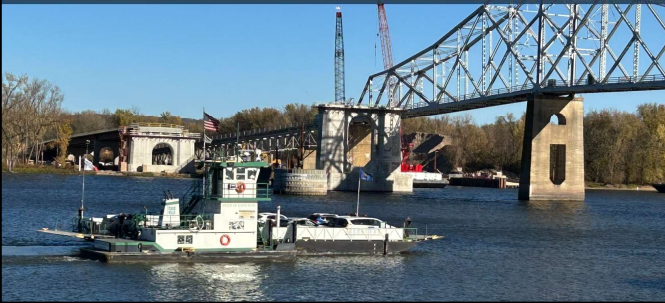
OPERATIONS PLAN

- Safety plan
- Call tree
- 511 IA & WI
- Project website
- Signage
- Lighting
- Web cameras
- Power – solar / generator
- Winter operations snow & ice



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RESULTS



LAUNCH

- November 3, 2025
- No fee for users
- 5:30am first trip leaves Wisconsin
- 9:15pm last trip leaves Iowa
- Continuous trip cycle
- First come, first served
- One way trip 10-15 minutes
 - Not including queue time



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USAGE

- Average daily usage
- 550 vehicles
- Cassville Ferry Nov 2025 – April 2026
- Newt Marine April 2026 – bridge open



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TIMELINE



- Bridge Closure** – announced July 6, 2025
- July** – data gathering, survey
- August** – layout, footprint, start permitting
- September** – structure design, operations planning, environmental permitting, CPKC railroad crossing improvement, vessel procurement
- October** – contractor negotiations, construction, operations implementation
- November** – launch service

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Relationships Critical for Success

- Support from the highest levels
- Support from the community
- Support from outside agencies
- Contractor cooperation
- Dedication of the project team



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Thank You!

- Iowa DOT
- Wisconsin DOT
- City of Lansing
- Village of Cassville Ferry
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Army Corps
- US Coast Guard
- Iowa DNR
- Wisconsin DNR
- CPKC Railroad
- Kraemer North America
- Newt Marine
- HNTB

Presenters
Clayton Burke PE Clayton.Burke@iowadot.us
Brenda Schoenfeld PE bschoenfeld@hntb.com
John Puls PE jpuls@hntb.com
