



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DOT ANNOUNCES RACINE STREET BRIDGE OPENING DATE CITY OF MENASHA TO HOST RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION**

**MENASHA, WI – April 12, 2023.** The City of Menasha is pleased to announce the reopening of the Racine Street Bridge connecting Downtown Menasha to Doty Island on Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Common Council's decision to recommend replacing the bridge in 2015 recognizes that safety, traffic flow, boat access, and pedestrian access are an important part of the city's image and economic development planning. Just as the Marina was an investment in Menasha's future, so is an improved Racine Street Bridge. This bridge is a statement about the future of Menasha and an investment for the next generation to ensure Menasha remains a vibrant Community. The City of Menasha has made tremendous impacts throughout the downtown, marina, and riverfront; living up to the challenge of being 'Your Place on the Water'.

The \$33 million project has reinvested our money that was sent to Washington and Madison back to Menasha to enhance our community. In addition, over \$20 million in new development has occurred in the downtown and Doty Island areas since the announcement of the new bridge.

The new bridge provides numerous benefits to the community including:

- Improved safety – a desirable width and profile will improve safety for all users. The new bridge features 11' vehicular traffic lanes, 5' bike lanes, and 6' sidewalk on both sides.
- Improved boat passage – the new bridge includes an auxiliary navigation channel with greater clearance just south of the bascule span allowing more boats to pass under the bridge without opening the bascule span, which results in less delays for both boats and vehicles in the downtown.
- Improved multi-modal opportunities providing more suitable accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian travel and connections to the planned river walks on both shores as well as overlooks for pedestrian enjoyment.
- Additional landscaping and concrete work to enhance the walkability of the project will continue this summer as well as installation of decorative lighting.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held Wednesday April 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM. The ceremony will include the Menasha High School Marching band, remarks from Mayor Merkes and Northeast Region Director Wisconsin DOT Tom Buchholz, and the VFW & Menasha Police Department Honor Guard. There will be an opportunity to walk the bridge following the ribbon cutting with the first vehicles crossing the bridge around 6:30 PM.

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