



# NEWS



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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## Leo Frigo Bridge expected to be open in January 2014

*Request for bids going out today*

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) today announced a plan to repair the Leo Frigo Bridge that would allow the bridge to reopen in January 2014. The bridge has been closed since September 25, 2013, when Pier 22 unexpectedly sank two feet.

During a media conference at WisDOT's northeast region office, WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb announced a construction plan that calls for the permanent repairs to be completed by January 17, 2014. He said the bridge will reopen to traffic sometime in January if the repairs proceed as planned.

Secretary Gottlieb added, "At a news conference on September 25, Governor Scott Walker pledged the state would move quickly to investigate the situation and get this bridge functioning once again. He understood the significant impact this bridge closure would have on the community and the state."

State engineers announced that Pier 22 sank as the result of corrosion to the pier's pilings due to the unique soil conditions surrounding them. These same conditions are found from Pier 21 to 25 and all of these piers will be repaired.

New pilings will be installed at the bases of the five piers, protected from the corrosive conditions that exist and connected to the pier footings. The deck at Pier 22 will then be jacked back into place and supports installed.

WisDOT is also installing temporary support towers on either side of Pier 22 to prevent any further sagging and protect workers as they work on the permanent repair. Those towers are expected to be in place by early November.

The investigation is also continuing for all of the bridge piers and should be completed with a final report by early winter 2014. Though WisDOT has already determined only five piers need this extensive repair, there might be some preventive measures available that could extend the service life of the other piers.

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NOTE: News releases can be viewed on the Web at: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm).