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**9<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange in Oshkosh closing to traffic Feb. 28**

*Second phase of \$53 million highway expansion project about to start*

(Green Bay) The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Northeast Region office in Green Bay is announcing the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge carrying traffic over US 41 in Oshkosh will close at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28 for demolition. Ramps carrying traffic to and from US 41 at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue will also close, as the second phase of the US 41 mainline expansion project between WIS 26 and Witzel Avenue in Winnebago County gets underway. The demolition is scheduled to begin Tuesday, March 1 and requires full-freeway closures during nighttime hours. Motorists are encouraged to plan alternate routes.

The project involves replacing the 39-year-old bridge over US 41 and constructing multi-lane roundabouts at the ramp terminals and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersections at Washburn and Koeller streets. Overpass demolition details include:

- Close 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 to all traffic between Washburn and Koeller streets
- Remove the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge over a period of three nights beginning March 1, between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. If another night of demolition is needed, work would take place Sunday, March 6 or Monday, March 7
- Full-lane closures on US 41 northbound and southbound while the overpass is dismantled. During demolition US 41 northbound and southbound traffic will be detoured up the off-ramps of the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange and directed back to the freeway using the US 41 on-ramps

The 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge and US 41 northbound on-and-off ramps reopen to traffic in July, but southbound ramps remain closed until November 2011.

The work also includes the widening of US 41 to three traffic lanes in each direction between WIS 26 and Witzel Avenue. From March 8 through mid-July, all US 41 traffic

will be shifted to newly widened southbound lanes (two lanes in each direction) as the northbound lanes are reconstructed. From mid-July through Nov. 4, all US 41 traffic will be shifted to the newly constructed northbound lanes (two lanes in each direction) as the southbound lanes are widened to three lanes.

**Please note: All scheduled closures are weather dependent and subject to change.**

Law enforcement will monitor traffic during the demolition and portable message signs are being placed to inform motorists. During the project, US 41 may occasionally be reduced to one lane as needed during overnight hours and shoulders will be closed to facilitate construction. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange construction continues through November 2011. During the project, motorists are encouraged to use WIS 44 or WIS 21 interchanges to access US 41.

#### **ABOUT THE US 41 PROJECT**

WisDOT is initiating expansion and improvement of 31 miles of US 41 in Brown and Winnebago Counties. The project will include road expansion to accommodate increased traffic volume, 44 new roundabouts, improved interchanges and expansion of the Lake Butte des Morts Causeway. Current construction information and details about the project can be found at [www.www.US41wisconsin.gov](http://www.US41wisconsin.gov) or by calling the project hotline: (920) 492-4120.

**[Winnebago County – all, Brown- Media]**

NOTE: News releases can be viewed on the Web at: [www.www.US41wisconsin.gov](http://www.US41wisconsin.gov)

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