



State of Illinois  
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Omer Osman, Secretary

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Bob Michel Bridge rehabilitation starts March 13**

*Weekend lane closures expected ahead of eight-month full closure*

**PEORIA** – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that rehabilitation of the Bob Michel Bridge carrying Illinois 40 over the Illinois River begins March 13, weather permitting. The bridge will remain closed to vehicular traffic until November, while staying open to bikes and pedestrians throughout the project.

Intermittent lane closures are expected over the weekend in preparation of the upcoming bridge closure. Motorists will be detoured across the river on the Murray Baker Bridge carrying Interstate 74 from downtown Peoria to East Peoria.

The estimated \$24.6 million project consists of removal of sidewalks, reducing the outside shoulders to 3.5 feet wide and consolidating the bike and pedestrian space to the north side of the bridge. The redesign will result in a 14-foot-wide multi-use path with a concrete barrier wall separating cars and the path to make it safer for all who share the bridge. The new bridge deck will include a concrete overlay and new joints to preserve and extend the life of the deck.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 2,500 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Three of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$8.6 billion of improvements statewide on 4,422 miles of highway, 412 bridges, and 621 additional safety improvements.

For more information on this project, visit <https://www.bobmichelbridge.com/>. The website features project details, maps, historical facts and photos. Additional information on IDOT projects can be seen [here](#). For IDOT District 4 updates, follow us on Twitter at [@IDOTDistrict4](#) or view area construction details on IDOT's [traveler information map](#) on GettingAroundIllinois.com and [www.gettingaroundpeoria.com](http://www.gettingaroundpeoria.com).

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