



**BAY CITY
BRIDGE
PARTNERS**

PROGRESS

REPORT Summer 2021

LEASE AGREEMENT APPROVED

Bay City commissioners voted on August 2 to approve language enabling the mayor and city clerk to execute a lease agreement between the City of Bay City (City) and Bay City Bridge Partners (BCBP) for Liberty Bridge. A vote on a similar lease agreement for Independence will follow at a later date.

The approved lease language for Liberty Bridge is consistent with the original acquisition & development agreement, with added details and protections for the City. The City and BCBP entered into their original agreement in 1/2/2020, with BCBP committing to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the rehabilitation and modernization of the Liberty Bridge and build a new replacement for the Independence Bridge at no cost to the City.

MEET THE BCBP TEAM

This month, BCBP hosts an open house, inviting the public to find out more about the projects and ask questions. BCBP contractors will also be available to discuss potential business opportunities for vendors, suppliers and subcontractors as part of the construction project.

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE / BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES EVENT
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-7PM AT CITY HALL**

PROJECTS MOVE FULL STEAM AHEAD

Since our last Progress Update in December 2020, the BCBP project team has been in high gear, moving forward with design and environmental phases for Liberty and Independence bridges. Nearly 50-75 design, environmental and construction team experts have been meeting multiple times a week via Zoom.

Meanwhile, BCBP has reimbursed the City for all maintenance and repair services on Liberty and Independence, funded and engaged movable bridge experts to conduct thorough inspections of both bridges, worked to pass necessary legislation to allow this innovative public/private partnership, and initiated environmental reviews and engineering work.



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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

[Environmental Update](#)

Based on assessments, no historic resources, adjacent properties, or endangered or threatened species will be impacted by the construction on either bridge. Team experts have coordinated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and United States Fish & Wildlife Service on the mussel habitat – which should not be impacted. Crews will follow work restrictions and dates for in-stream work to prevent impacts to breeding species.

In addition, no significant permanent noise or air impacts will be created as a result of either project.

Neither the Liberty nor Independence bridge projects will involve any property purchases. In addition, no business access will be impacted.

[Independence Bridge Update](#)

Design of the new replacement bridge is underway. BCBP is proposing an alignment for the new Independence Bridge located just east of the existing bridge to keep the old bridge operational during construction. The bridge profile will also be raised by approximately 11 feet to reduce the number of bridge openings. Construction on Independence bridge is expected to begin in mid-2022.



[Liberty Bridge](#)

Design of the Liberty bridge rehabilitation is nearing completion, and bridge deck removal work is scheduled to begin in Fall 2021. The mechanical and electrical systems will be upgraded and replaced over the winter months. Traffic will be reduced to two lanes during this time. A more detailed traffic plan will be shared with the public when it is complete.

The proposed design for Liberty Bridge will include several aesthetic enhancements and will likely include new color changeable LED lighting along the southern portion of the bridge that is over the water, the City logo on the tender post, and community banners on light posts along the bridge.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our commitment to a better Bay City extends far beyond our work on the bridges.

BCBP was a proud sponsor of the Bay City Noon Optimists 3rd Annual Golf Outing in June. BCBP project director Kevin Bischel was joined by Terry Velligan, general manager of operations for the Cline Avenue Bridge in northwest Indiana. They certainly didn't break any course records or score prizes, but they spent a great summer day meeting other participants in person.



BCBP is also actively working to recruit a general manager of operations to direct the operations of the project during rebuild, rehabilitation, and after both bridges have been completed. The ideal candidate is someone with strong ties to the community, a business/construction management background, along with a proactive mindset for communicating and delivering excellent customer service. To learn more or to apply [click here](#).

We also sponsor this month's Annual Bay Area Family YMCA Rise 'n Shine 5K. This is the Y's largest fundraiser of year to raise dollars to support financial assistance programs ensuring that ALL are truly welcome to the YMCA.



WHAT'S NEXT



To stay connected with us, we encourage residents and business owners to visit baycitybridgepartners.com and like our Facebook @BCbridgepartners for timely updates.

SUBSCRIBE

We also encourage those interested in email updates to subscribe to our list at baycitybridgepartners.com.

