



**BAY CITY
BRIDGE
PARTNERS**

PROGRESS

DECEMBER 2021 UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON LIBERTY BRIDGE

Residents can expect traffic control set up to begin on or around December 13 on Liberty Bridge. Bridge traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on the north side of the bridge so that work can commence on the south side. Shortly thereafter, local contractors will start light demolition work – such as removal of light poles and railings.

Liberty spans the Saginaw River along E. Vermont Street/Woodside Avenue connecting the Midland Street Business District on the west and Downtown Bay City on the east.



INDEPENDENCE BRIDGE PROGRESS

Bay City Bridge Partners will be building a new, taller bridge immediately east of the current bridge, closest to the Bangor Township boat launch and the USS Edson. While it is still in the design phase, here's what we know:

Other construction details include:

- Bridge deck removal on the south side of the bridge – the concrete pavement will be cut, chipped and cleaned, beams repaired, and new deck rebar formed in preparation for pouring a new deck in April when temperatures warm up. Removing the deck will allow contractors to get large equipment and parts into areas currently not accessible.
- Similar bridge deck removal work will shift to the north side of the bridge in mid-summer 2022.
- Major upgrade and replacement work on the electrical and mechanical components of the bascule portions of the bridge will begin in January.

“It may seem odd to begin construction in winter, but we are working around the shipping season,” explains Kevin Bischel, BCBP project director. “We have important prep work to do now so that we can take full advantage of warmer temperatures in the 2022 construction season. And we are committed to keeping the bridge open to vehicles as we do it.”

Bischel notes that there will be a brief time in the spring when both sides of the bridge will be closed and temporarily locked in the open position for ships. “But we will give residents ample notice and will work to minimize the impact to travelers and local businesses,” he says.

- The bridge will stand 10 feet taller to reduce bridge openings and traffic delays.
- Earth and foundation work will be the first construction-related tasks.
- Construction work will take at least two years.
- When the new bridge is completed, the old bridge will be demolished.

Independence Bridge carries Harry S. Truman Parkway over the river and is the bridge closest to the mouth of the Saginaw Bay.

ABOUT BAY CITY BRIDGE PARTNERS

Bay City Bridge Partners is leasing Liberty Bridge and Independence Bridge from the City of Bay City. We are financing, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining the rehabilitation and modernization of the Liberty Bridge and building a new replacement for Independence Bridge at no cost to the City.

Since January 2020, 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 completed environmental reviews, engineering, and design work.

BCBP will recoup construction and maintenance costs with tolling.

TOLLING “HOW TOS”

Along with the work on Liberty Bridge, Bay City Bridge Partners also plans to utilize the winter and spring of 2022 to begin education on how to use the bridges once tolling takes effect. Drivers will not see a toll booth. Instead, they may install “sticker-like” transponders (unlimited crossings for just \$15 a month for both residents and non-residents) that are read by RFID readers over the bridge entrances. Those without transponders will receive an invoice for tolls based on a capture of their license plate number (\$.50 per crossing for residents with transponders and regular two-axle vehicles).

- Tolls will begin for non-city residents on the Liberty Bridge after rehabilitation is complete.
- Tolls for city residents will not be implemented for five-years after completion.
- School buses, first responders, and residents below the poverty line will not pay tolls.

Bay City Bridge Partners will have a local office where travelers can come to pick up transponders, seek instruction for usage, ask questions, and express concerns. They are in the process of hiring a general manager to run this office and help coordinate ongoing construction.

LIBERTY ESTIMATED TIMELINE

December 2021	January-March 2022	April-May 2022	June-July 2022	December 2022
Traffic shift, one lane in each direction on north side of bridge Light demolition on south side	No bridge openings Bridge deck removal on the south side Prep for pouring new deck in spring Major upgrade and replacement work on electrical and mechanical components of bascule portions	New deck pouring on south side Anticipated brief closure of both sides of bridge	Traffic shifted to south side, one lane in each direction Deck removal work shifts to north side of bridge Control tower upgrades and improvements	Bridge work complete

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