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Overnight lane closures on I-39/U.S. 20 at Mulford Road bridge in Rockford begin June 26

DIXON – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that weather permitting, there will be a combination of detoured traffic, periodic traffic stops and overnight lane closures on Interstate 39 and U.S. 20 at Mulford Road in Rockford beginning today, Wednesday, June 26. The closures are necessary to install the structural steel for the new Mulford Road bridge as part of the \$98.8 million project to rebuild the I-39/U.S. 20 interchange.

The work will begin with the setting of steel on the northern half of the bridge working towards the south and will have the following variants of traffic impacts as work progresses:

- Periodic 20-minute full traffic stops for the southbound I-39 ramp traffic from U.S. 20 westbound and U.S. 20 eastbound and I-39 northbound to U.S. 20 eastbound ramp traffic from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Eastbound and westbound U.S. 20 lane closures from 7 p.m. each night to 6 a.m. the following morning.
- Full closure of westbound U.S. 20: Traffic will detour between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. using I-39 southbound, the Baxter Road interchange (exit 115), I-39 northbound, and the exit ramp to U.S. 20 westbound.

There will be no overnight closures on Fridays and Saturdays. In advance of the Independence Day holiday, no work will take place from 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, to 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 8. Work will resume after the holiday period with all steel set by mid-July. The bridge is scheduled to be completed in September.

Reconstruction of the I-39 and U.S. 20 interchange began in July 2023. Work this year will realign the northbound and southbound I-39 ramps connecting with U.S. 20, add lanes on both routes, and build several new bridges. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024.

The I-39 and U.S. 20 interchange project are part of a larger \$247.6 million, multiyear project to improve I-39 between the Harrison Avenue interchange and Blackhawk Road. Work began in April to convert the Harrison Avenue interchange from a cloverleaf to a diverging diamond interchange. The majority of the project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2025, with some final touch-up work to be completed in spring 2026.

Additional projects include expanding I-39 from four to six lanes with an accessory lane between U.S. 20 and Harrison Avenue and replacing several bridges in the corridor. Also, U.S. 20 will be expanded from four to six lanes east of I-39 and will replace the bridges crossing the Kishwaukee River. All projects are anticipated to conclude by the end of 2027. More information about the I-39 reconstruction project is available on the [project webpage](#).

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 3,000 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 Four of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges and 762 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on X at [@IDOTDistrict2](#) or view area construction details on IDOT's [traveler information map](#) on GettingAroundIllinois.com.

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