

**RESOLUTION TO
REQUEST ACTION BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DELAYS TO
CONSTRUCTION OF STH 19 (MAIN ST.) BRIDGE OVER ROCK RIVER
IN WATERTOWN WI**

**SPONSOR: ALDERPERSON BRAD BLANKE
FROM: COMMON COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown began exploring options to partner with Wisconsin Department of Transportation for reconstruction of STH 19 (Main St.) Bridge in Watertown, WI in May 2019; and,

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2022 the sidewalk on the northwest portion of the bridge was closed due to poor conditions and safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS, beginning on July 25, 2022 the City has taken substantial steps to prepare STH 19 (Main St.) Bridge for reconstruction by April 2024 to meet the State's stated construction timeline which was to be bid in March 2024 and have the bridge open to vehicular traffic by November 2024; and,

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2023 the City placed a steel plate and a 20-ton weight restriction on the bridge, due to further deterioration and safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS, the City was first notified on September 19, 2024 that the contractor believed construction would not be completed until July 2025, due to alleged flaws in the design plan that had been discussed between the contractor and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation since May 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the City was told numerous times from May 13, 2024 to September 18, 2024 that there were no recognized delays to the bridge being open and ready for vehicular traffic by November 27, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN:

The Common Council hereby requests Governor Tony Evers; the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Kristina Boardman; the Administrator for the Division of Transportation System Development, Rebecca Burkel and the Southwest Region Director, Daniel Schave, P.E., conduct a review to determine why the City was not notified of the design issues that have led to the delay.

Be it further resolved, that the Common Council hereby requests the State of Wisconsin address the delay caused by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation construction design flaw to ensure the project is timely finished, and provide support to affected business owners along STH 19 (Main St.) who are negatively affected by any delay that does occur, potentially by redirecting any savings from the project delay penalty to those businesses affected by the delay.

That the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Governor's Office, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Administrator for the Division of Transportation System Development, and the Southwest Regional Director.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and adoption.

	YES	NO
DAVIS		
LAMPE		
BOARD		
BARTZ		
BLANKE		
SMITH		
SCHMID		
WETZEL		
MOLDENHAUER		
MAYOR MCFARLAND		
TOTAL		

ADOPTED October 15, 2024

CITY CLERK

APPROVED October 15, 2024

MAYOR