

As planning and environmental work continues for the Blatnik Bridge replacement project, you may see fieldwork and other pre-construction activities occurring near the bridge. Work you may be seeing includes:

### Pile load testing and preliminary pier design investigations:

Crews will be performing tests to determine load-carrying capacity. This often involves large machinery and may involve noisy work. This work will be completed during daytime hours.

### Geotechnical investigations:

Borings will be collected to determine soil properties before construction occurs. Borings are done using a drilling machine on the back of a truck. All holes will be refilled the same day.

### Environmental (contamination) testing:

Due to historical and ongoing industrial activity near the bridge, contamination will need to be evaluated before construction. Crews will drill holes and may dig wide trenches in areas with contaminated soil. Crews will refill the holes and trenches the same day that they are opened. There may be some noise from the work, similar to a truck engine.

### About the Blatnik Bridge replacement project:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are planning to replace the Blatnik Bridge between Duluth and Superior. This project includes a new bridge, a new shared-use path, and a new interchange in Superior with a direct connection to US 53.



*Pile load testing*

### Traffic impacts:

Some of this work may require short-term, temporary lane or ramp closures to complete this fieldwork.

### Stay connected:

Visit the project website for more information, to sign up for the project newsletter and email updates, and share your comments/questions on our interactive map:  
[mndot.gov/d1/projects/blatnik-bridge](https://mndot.gov/d1/projects/blatnik-bridge)