

I-64 Sherman Minton Bridge Reopens Ahead Of Schedule

Thousands of motorists in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky celebrated on February 17 as news spread that the I-64 Sherman Minton Bridge over the Ohio River had reopened.

In a news release, Governor Daniels thanked the workers, contractors, INDOT and citizens who endured inconvenience during the bridge closure. With final steel plates installed, the bridge was deemed safe for vehicular traffic, and these plates are anticipated to extend the service life of the bridge at least 20 years.

Incentives, favorable weather conditions and efficient work by contractors reduced repairs from an estimated six months to less than four months. The bridge was closed on September 9, 2011, when inspectors discovered cracks in some load-bearing bridge supports.

Although the bridge has reopened, construction will continue. Subcontractors must still finish painting the new steel plates and remove working platforms attached to the bridge. Temperature-sensitive painting operations will occur during 30 work days as weather permits. Lane restrictions will be in place for this work during off-peak hours.



Once the structural steel plate has been lowered into position workers temporarily fasten the plate to the tie with straps and clamps. The plate was eventually bolted into place.

A structural steel plate is lowered into position on the Sherman Minton Bridge.

