

How Iowa DOT will demolish a Lansing, Iowa bridge this week

By Kate Kealey, December 16, 2025



The Black Hawk Bridge in Lansing is finally coming down, and Iowans can witness its implosion.

The bridge connecting Lansing, Iowa, to Wisconsin will be demolished following two closures over the summer due to safety concerns. The bridge is [the only connection in a 60-mile stretch](#) for approximately 2,200 vehicles each day, according to the [Iowa Department of Transportation](#).

It has been [closed since October](#). The Black Hawk Bridge is being demolished to make room for the construction of a replacement bridge, which is expected to be completed in 2027, according to the Iowa DOT.

When will the Lansing bridge be demolished?

After pushing back the implosion date, the planned demolition of the Lansing bridge is set for 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, followed by a smaller implosion on the east end later in the day. Audible warning horns will sound before each implosion, according to [the Iowa DOT](#).

“The implosion may be loud. Anyone with hearing sensitivity is advised to remain inside and use ear protection if needed,” according to Iowa DOT.

If the weather results in a delay for the demolition, Dec. 20 is the backup date.

How can you watch the Lansing bridge implosion?

For those wanting to witness the historic Black Hawk Bridge come down, there is an 850-foot restricted zone from the bridge with road closures and barricades to allow for safe, public viewing.

Street closures and parking restrictions will start as early as 6 a.m. on Dec. 19 for Iowa 9, with Iowa 26 closing around 8:45 a.m. The area will reopen roughly 30 minutes following the implosion so crews can inspect the blast zone and the remaining structure.

The river has a 1,000-foot restricted zone, and state officials “strongly advise” against standing on the ice due to safety concerns.

How to live stream the Lansing bridge implosion

The Des Moines Register will live stream the Black Hawk Bridge’s demolition on its [YouTube page](#) and website for anyone who can’t make the trip to eastern Iowa to catch the boom.

When will the new Mississippi River bridge in Lansing open?

With plans to open in the fall of 2027, the replacement bridge will share some similarities with its predecessor. It will still contain a steel through-truss. The Black Hawk Bridge's narrow-deck design will also come to an end, with plans for the new bridge to nearly double in road width.

The new bridge will be taller above and below the water, spanning 180 feet high and a 150-foot foundation. For comparison, the Black Hawk Bridge's foundation depth went down 55 feet.

The new bridge will also lose the sharp turn, which was a source of headaches for truck drivers, and instead, have a continuous, gradual curve, according to [the Iowa DOT](#).