



# Clark County Highway Department

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## 7840-03-03 Clark County G Bridge over the Black River

### Project Update – Spring 2023

The bridge over the Black River on County G (W. Begley St) in the City of Greenwood is reaching the end of its useful life. Clark County is working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to replace the bridge with a new structure. Since the public meeting held in 2021, the existing bridge was determined to be a historically significant structure. Numerous alternatives were developed to avoid removal of the existing bridge and still meet project purpose and need:

- **Alternative #1:** No Build;
- **Alternative #2:** Structure Rehabilitation for Vehicular Use while maintaining historic integrity;
- **Alternative #3:** Structure Rehabilitation for Bicycle and Pedestrian Use while maintaining historic integrity;
- **Alternative #4:** New Bridge at Hunt Street which avoids demolition of the existing bridge;
- **Alternative #5:** New Bridge at Miller Street which avoids demolition of the existing bridge;
- **Alternative #6:** New Bridge on Existing Alignment;
- **Alternative #7:** New Bridge Adjacent South which avoids demolition of the existing; and
- **Alternative #8:** New Bridge Adjacent North which avoids demolition of the existing bridge.

Following extensive evaluation of the impacts, benefits, and costs of these alternatives, Alternative #6: New Bridge on Existing Alignment has been selected as the preferred alternative. This alternative will require the removal of the existing structure and construction of a new bridge at the same location. The other alternatives either did not adequately meet the project purpose and need or generated significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and private property. In March 2023, the County and WisDOT conducted a consultation meeting with local representatives, historical organizations, and adjacent property owners to discuss options for mitigating the loss of the historic bridge. The following actions were agreed on:

1. The City of Greenwood's Branstiter Museum will be given an opportunity to select and move to its property a salvaged piece of the historic bridge.
2. A three- or four-panel display will be prepared for interior exhibition chronicling Clark County bridges that crossed the Black River.
3. Bridge-related material will be prepared and formatted for presentation on the websites of both the city of Greenwood and the Clark County Economic Development Corporation.
4. Copies of the Determination of Eligibility for Listing on the National Register of Historic Place completed for the bridge, along with up to six photographs, will be donated to the Clark County Historical Society, Clark County Economic Development Corporation, Clark County Jail Museum, the city of Greenwood, and the Branstiter Museum.
5. The bridge will be listed for sale prior to demolition in an effort to find a new home for one or both of the structure's two spans.

For details on these alternatives and their evaluation, please visit the Clark County Highway Department website, which features updated information about the project: <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/highwayprojects> .