



## Hennepin County News

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### **Lowry Avenue Bridge removal begins; Open House April 7**

Preparatory work will begin next week for removal of the Lowry Avenue Bridge. Hennepin County will host an open house to discuss the project from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 Second St. NE. Further updates will also be provided by the county as the removal process continues.

Bridge removal contractor Carl Bolander & Sons Co. of St. Paul is partnering with regulatory agencies to obtain permits for controlled demolition to implode the bridge trusses and piers this summer. Due to the bridge's current condition, controlled demolition offers the safest option available to workers, with minimal disruption to the environment and river navigation.

The county plans on salvaging lighting, monitoring equipment, deck panels, ornamental fencing, stone retaining walls, portions of the stone piers, the bridge's plaque and historic markers and other utility-related items. The county is also coordinating the bridge removal with all utility owners located on and adjacent to the bridge, including CenterPoint Energy, the City of Minneapolis and Xcel Energy.

Hennepin County engineers, in consultation with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, determined it was necessary to close the bridge on April 25, 2008, due to continued structural issues with one of the bridge piers. In 2004, bridge engineers discovered Pier 3 had rotated 11 inches out of vertical alignment. Further rotation of the

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## **2009 Lowry Avenue Bridge/2**

pier introduced an unacceptable risk to the traveling public.

The Lowry Avenue Bridge carries Hennepin County State Aid Highway 153 over the Mississippi River between north and northeast Minneapolis. The bridge was built in 1905 and substantially renovated in 1958.

The county plans to begin construction on the new bridge this fall. The County Board approved the Lowry Avenue Bridge replacement project as its No. 1 state bonding request in summer 2006. Funding sources for the project include Hennepin County bonds and state bridge bonds. Federal stimulus funding is also being pursued.

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*Look for more news on the Hennepin County website – [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) or go to [www.lowryavenuebridge.com](http://www.lowryavenuebridge.com).*