

Plymouth to Kohler Rebuild April 24 update

Even though the past week was wet and construction slowed down, there were mile stones taking place. The first three gondolas loaded with new ties showed up on Monday, April 6, and were unloaded by Friday. Average of 690 ties in each car. This means if all the ties arrive by rail, it will take at least 48 car loads to get the 33,180 ties to this area, for the main line construction. Track supplies continue to arrive at the Highland Staging area, such as joint bars, joint bolts, spikes, tie plates, tie plate clips, matting and 136# rail.

Six more gondolas loaded with ties, one flat car of 115 # rail and one car of ballast arrived over the weekend. They are spotted on the new lead track which runs from Reed St. to Clifford St. for unloading. The flat car of rail is loaded with 66 - 80 foot lengths of 115# rail. This is a total length of 5,280 feet or exactly one mile. Weight of the load is just over 101 tons of steel. The car is loaded to it's maximum capacity.

Work continues on the three major bridges under construction. The bridge just west of City Rd M is waiting for concrete. Conditions are too wet at this time to get the concrete trucks to the site. Bridge over the Mullet River in Sheboygan Falls is ready for new decking to be installed. Bridge in Sheboygan Falls over the Sheboygan River is receiving considerable attention at this time. This is a major project with very little room for workers to work from. Every inch of space is being used.

Jerry Thompson
Railroad Services Coordinator
City of Plymouth





Activity continues to build as the project moves forward. Monday, April 20, crews began cutting the blacktop and concrete at the road crossing areas, so crossing construction can begin. Semi loads of ties began to arrive from the Stella-Jones tie plant in Bangor, Wisconsin. These are mainly 9 foot ties for road crossing work. Track panels are now being built using these ties along with 136# rail and tie clip type anchors instead of spiked tie plates. Concrete road panels for the Hwy 57 crossing arrived on Tuesday. Over the past weekend seven more gondolas full of ties and one more flat car of rail arrived.

State Hwy 57 is slated to be closed 100% at the RR crossing beginning April 27. Also State Hwy 67 in downtown Plymouth will be closed starting the same date. The Intersection of PP and Hwy 67 on the south side of Plymouth is under construction. Full new intersection with traffic lights to be installed. Two new large cheese storage buildings are under construction east of Hwy 57 on Co. Rd PP in Plymouth's industrial park. Third one to get started a bit later, while the cheese storage facility on Willow Rd (GTS) has completed their addition, doubling the size of their facility.
Jerry Thompson

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Some noticeable progress made this past week, and at one site it was a case of a "do-over".

Waiting for tracks: I noticed that the right-of-way all the way from Clifford Street to State Hwy. 57 has been leveled, rolled, and compacted. I believe a sub-base of gravel will need to be put down yet. But this entire length, about 8,000 feet is nearly ready for track. Once that begins they'll have to start cutting through the street crossings at Clifford St., South St., Highland Ave., & finally Pleasant View Road. The next big obstacle would be Hwy. 57. Orange barrels and portable signage are in positioned on Hwy. 57 for use sometime soon.

195 days until scheduled completion date, Oct. 31st.
John Winter



Bridge over the Sheboygan River - Downtown Sheboygan Falls: Seems most of the work is being done to the support beams and the center pier of the bridge. The photo looking through some branches at the underside of the bridge, gives an overview of the temporary work platform under the bridge. (Someone should trim those branches before the leaves pop out!!)



Bridge over the Mullet River along Co. Hwy. PP: They installed the brand new deck timber on top of the support beams. It looks like the deck is nearly complete ready for rails to be attached some day. Photos #3 & #4.



Bridge west of Co. Hwy. M: This is a case of a "do-over". When I first checked it out today, I didn't think much of it, until I realized that the new west pier (2 columns) were demolished and has to be completely rebuilt. The west pier was finished but apparently something wasn't right and had to be removed. Photo #5 shows an overview of the pier with the west approach bridge abutment. In the close up of the west pier photo #6 you can see they have straps pulled tight and anchored to the east pier columns on the other side of the creek. Just a guess, but perhaps they want to make sure the columns don't lean or move out of place.



Clifford Street - Plymouth: More track material continues to arrive. Just north of Clifford Street more gondolas filled with ties and another TOFC flat car loaded with rail was spotted there. It is 115 lb. rail in 80' lengths. Near these rail cars are stacks of rail and ties that were unloaded from the previous week.