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Madison, Milton Residents Enjoying New Sidewalk

The highly anticipated opening of the pedestrian sidewalk on the Milton-Madison Bridge is now a reality, with the walkway being opened to the public following Tuesday's dedication ceremony for the bridge. The 5-foot-wide cantilevered path sits on the downstream side of the new bridge, is ADA accessible and allows people to walk or jog between the two communities for the first time in several decades. The sidewalk is only for pedestrian use with the shoulder of the bridge available for bicyclists.

The original Milton-Madison Bridge, which opened nearly 85 years ago, did not have a sidewalk, making this a major addition to the new bridge. One of the first walkers said it was exciting to have the walkway open, "This is really cool. I've been looking forward to being able to take this walk. I'll be doing this a lot."



A father and daughter were among the first walkers on the bridge sidewalk, which opened on Tuesday.

Those using the walkway will also notice the new Builders' Plate, attached to the truss at either end of the bridge.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Indiana Governor Mike Pence were joined by a host of local, state and federal dignitaries in dedicating the new bridge, concluding with a ceremonial ribbon cutting. At 2,428 feet long, the Milton-Madison Bridge became the longest bridge in North America — and perhaps the world — to be slid laterally into place when it was moved 55 feet from temporary piers onto refurbished permanent piers in April.

The Milton-Madison Bridge Project – a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – has received numerous awards. It was named one of the top 10 bridge projects in the country by *Roads & Bridges* magazine, received a 2012 Best of What's New Award from *Popular Science* magazine and received several state and national engineering awards for innovation. For more information, visit MiltonMadisonBridge.com or follow the project on Twitter.



Photo courtesy of Charlie Gannon, Walsh Construction

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