



“Nexus with Carferry Reality”

With the laying of the last segment of pipe, the regional water system between the Lakeshore and Central Brown County is fast approaching ultimate completion. Soon safe, potable drinking water will be flowing from Manitowoc to taps in homes and businesses near Green Bay, providing 71,000 new customers with a solution to their problem of an unhealthy water supply.

This amazing water filtration and transmission pipeline project will not only provide benefits to those living in the six municipalities that will be receiving our water, but it also has and will provide several benefits here at home, as well.

Our YMCA, for example, received a newly paved and substantially expanded parking lot for use by their members for simply allowing the pipeline to cut across their property.

Our county received funding for the rebuilding of several roads along the path of the pipeline. As a result, these roadways will receive upgrades that otherwise would have had to be paid for by our own taxpayers.

One of the biggest infrastructure improvements that was dramatically impacted by the project, though, was the assistance the Central Brown County Water Authority provided in the completion of the Quay Street extension to South Lakeview Drive, and then on to the Carferry Facility.

If you will remember, the Water Authority members agreed to pay for the dredging of the slip on which South Lakeview Drive was paved, speeding up the entire project by two years. The cost of the dredging was in return for our city allowing the Water Authority to use our lakefront for the path of the pipeline, rather than following a more expensive, inland route.

Our new, direct connection with the south waterfront that is home to the SS Badger when she is in port will be very important for the continued success of both our downtown and the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. Quay Street will provide a direct physical and financial nexus with the many businesses that populate our historic central city.

Here’s how we anticipate the way this new connection to downtown will work.

First of all, Quay Street and South Lakeview Drive are not meant to be the new and exclusive route to the Carferry facility. Rather, the Lake Michigan Carferry Service and all the agencies that advertise the Carferry, including our city, the Manitowoc Area Visitor and Convention Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and the State of Wisconsin, will continue to publish the primary route to and from the ferry as State Highway 10.

In Manitowoc that means that the route to the boat will continue to be south Tenth street to Madison Street, and, from the boat, back to Madison and North on Eighth Street.



The reason for these routes to continue is that all the mapping published for decades make Highway 10 the accepted route to the SS Badger. These routes are also clearly marked for easy use by out of town visitors.

When folks depart the Carferry, the interstate and highway signage will be erected in such a manner as to direct vehicles to South Lakeview Drive along the traditional egress route. Most Badger travelers are first time users of the Carferry and, therefore, we expect the signage to move the vast majority of the traffic along the most appropriate route.

The beautifully landscaped new roadway and pedestrian pathway are expected to give greater comfort to Carferry travelers in regard to getting to and using our downtown. It also will provide a much needed upgrade in regard to the “look” of our waterfront.

And finally, three really important and huge infrastructure improvements will be completed this year. Our new generation plant, the water filtration plant and pipeline, and the Quay Street extension will all be “put to bed” by June 30th and we all, locals and visitors alike, will be able to enjoy this wonderfully improved south Lakefront area no longer “under construction”.

And, by the way, this summer will also see new banner systems at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and in our downtown, refurbished streetscape amenities like benches and trash receptacles, and decorative lighting on our Eighth and Tenth Street Bridges.

Manitowoc Mayor Kevin Crawford may be reached at 920-686-6980.