



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CITY OF CHICAGO

Cortland Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project Update
May 2026

The Cortland Street Bridge over the North Branch of the Chicago River has been closed to vehicular traffic since September 22, 2025, as part of the Cortland Street Capital Bridge Rehabilitation project. This project was initiated to extend the service life of the more than century-old bridge and ensure its long-term safety.

The Bridge was originally constructed in 1902, when regular inspections and other federal requirements were not necessary. As a result, the bridge was constructed in a way that made certain areas nearly impossible to inspect and maintain.

Closing the bridge to vehicular traffic has allowed for a more thorough assessment of the bridge in areas that were not previously accessible. These inspections identified additional issues that were not included in the original scope of work. While this type of discovery is not uncommon in rehabilitation projects, the findings in this case are significant elements and require a more detailed engineering review and analysis before a revised project approach is determined. That assessment is expected to be completed in June. Following that, CDOT can share a more detailed update on next steps.

In the meantime, sidewalks will remain open for pedestrian and bicycle access. Ongoing work includes bridge pier protection, bridge house stabilization, bridge painting, and seawall repairs.

We recognize the impact this closure has on traffic in the surrounding area and we are working carefully on next steps to minimize disruptions while maintaining public safety.