

DECEMBER 2024

Connect CR Update



Coming Soon: Alliant Energy LightLine™ Contractor to be Selected

The bridge's latest renderings were revealed in October

The Alliant Energy LightLine™ is getting closer to the groundbreaking stage!

The City of Cedar Rapids is currently in the bid-letting process for the bridge, and the city council is expected to name the LightLine™ contractor in December. A groundbreaking date will be determined after the contractor selection, but it could happen this winter or next spring.



Last month, ConnectCR and the City of Cedar Rapids revealed the final renderings for the bridge. Many supporters stopped by Lion Bridge Brewing Co. to see the latest bridge design.

The bridge renderings can be viewed on ConnectCR's website by clicking [here](#), on ConnectCR's [Facebook page](#), or on the [city's website](#).



You can view a KCRG- TV news story on the bridge renderings [here](#).

Lion Bridge Brewing Co Photos Credit: Ed Kempf



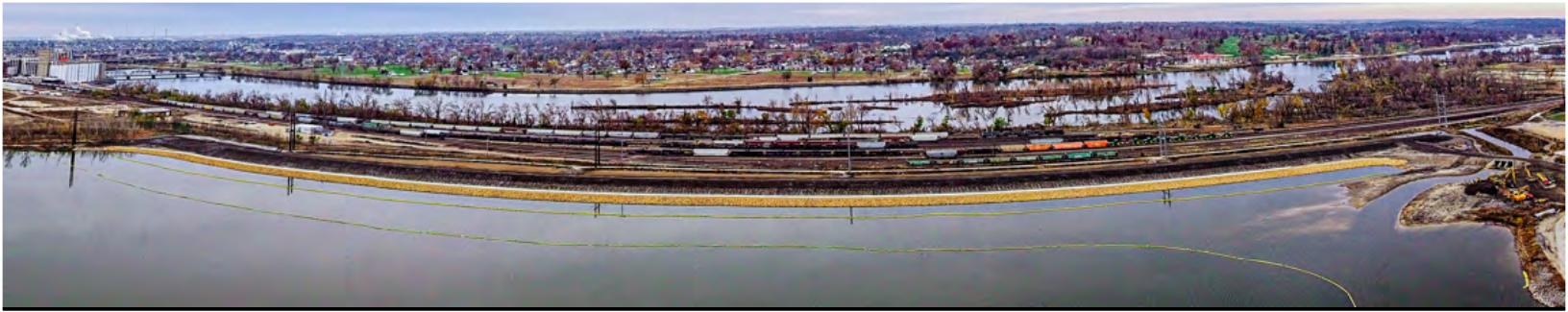
Dear Donors,

**Please pay your pledges
by the end of 2025**

*ConnectCR hopes to complete pledge
collections within the year.*

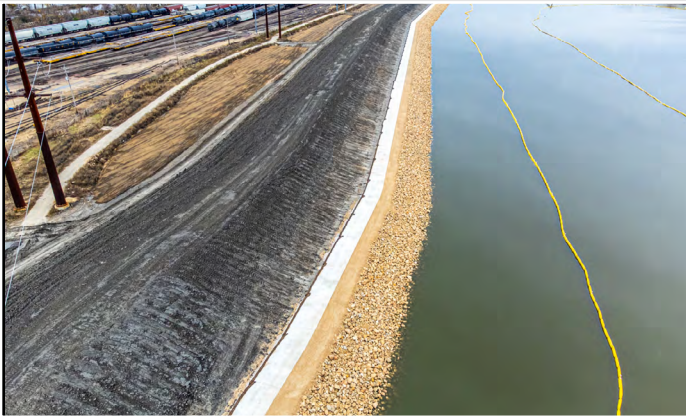
With a majority of the ConnectCR project expected to be completed by the end of 2025, we are hoping to collect the last of the private pledges by December 2025. If you made a pledge to ConnectCR and have yet to complete your obligation, please plan to do so by the end of next year.

ConnectCR is the largest public-private partnership in the history of Cedar Rapids, and it would not be possible without all the contributions from our more than 300 donors. Thank you to everyone who has completed their financial pledge.



Cedar Lake Update **Flood Protection Levee Closer to Completion** *Next up: construction begins on a lakeside trail*

Cedar Lake now has a beautiful new levee on its west side, thanks to the City of Cedar Rapids with support from the Iowa DNR. Below is an aerial view of the levee showing a new trail by the lake. Eventually, there will also be a paved trail on top of the levee.



The next step for ConnectCR is the long-awaited lakeside trail. Developing this trail is a multi-step process. Crews will initially expand the shoreline near the Sag Wagon this fall and winter to make space for the trail. Construction work will pick back up next spring when weather allows, with an expected trail completion in 2025. This trail will be located along the perimeter of the lake, so

trail users can walk around the lake without having to go out to the street on the lake's east side.

Other ConnectCR amenities will follow in 2025, with a majority of the work projected to be completed by the end of next year. You can view the Cedar Lake master plan [here](#).



While the lake's levee is complete, more flood protection work still needs to be done, so we haven't seen the last of construction crews

in that area. If you visit Cedar Lake, expect to follow detour signs for several more months.

We know that beautiful levee is tempting to see up close, but please, please stay out of the construction areas for your safety and the safety of the construction teams.

You can see the city's flood control plan [here](#).

Or view the current flood control plans underway and see a map [here](#).



Birds-eye Look of the New Levee

This drone video, shot by board member Steve Sovern, offers an aerial tour of the lake, including a birds-eye look at the new levee which you can view [here](#).



McCloud Run Still a Construction Zone

New trail bridge in place for future connection

Though not a part of the ConnectCR project, we often receive inquiries about McCloud Run and the trail there. That trail (part of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail) runs to the north of the lake and takes trail users to Cedar Lake.

Last summer, the city removed concrete in the waterway and naturalized McCloud Run, which is the state's only urban trout stream. Part of the naturalization plan was the creation of pooling ponds, which are now visible. This project also includes new trails along McCloud Run and a new bridge that allows trail users to cross the stream

without having to use nearby Shaver Road. The trail bridge is in place, but work continues on the stream and the trails. The rendering below shows what this area will look like when this project is completed.



ConnectCR in the Community

Thank you to everyone who hosted ConnectCR this year to hear a project update:

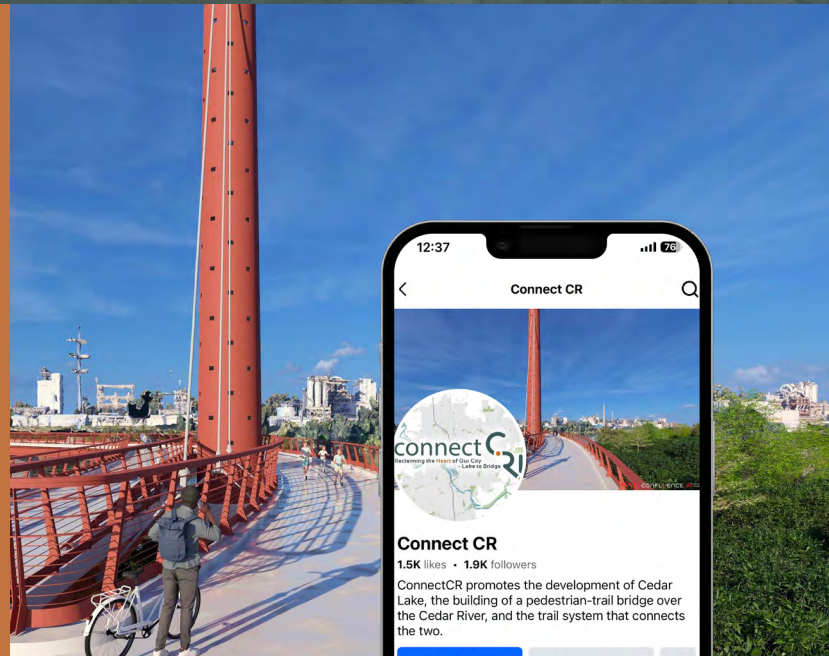
Iowa Bike Expo

MethWick

**Czech Village-NewBo District
SSMID EcoFest**

The Annual MPO Bike Ride

**The Cedar Rapids Downtown
Farmers Market**



If you or your organization would like an update on the project's progress, please email us at: ConnectCR.org@gmail.com

You can also follow updates on our website: ConnectCR.org

And on Facebook: facebook.com/ConnectCR.org

