



## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Program

August 2, 2017

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### *Masters of Ceremonies*

**Mary McComber**

Mayor, Oak Park Heights, MN

**Tom Spaniol**

Chairman, St. Joseph, WI Town Board

### *Speakers*

**Governor Mark Dayton**

Minnesota

**Governor Scott Walker**

Wisconsin

**Congressman Sean Duffy**

Wisconsin

**Congressman Ron Kind**

Wisconsin

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Today, we dedicate the new St. Croix River Crossing, a \$646 million project involving two states, multiple communities, many individuals and decades of debate. Its innovative extradosed design (which combines the elements of a concrete box girder bridge with a cable-stay bridge) makes the redundant structure extremely stable and creates a bridge that is only the second of its kind in the U.S.

MnDOT and WisDOT worked hard to minimize the bridge's negative effect on the environment while making the most of its usefulness as a transportation connector between Minnesota and Wisconsin. The strong cooperation between the states is a model for other states. The result is a beautiful bridge that fits well into the river gorge and is built to last a century or more as a vital link between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

It is also important to acknowledge the many people who have participated in various coalitions regarding a new crossing over the St. Croix. Many designs were considered. Extensive efforts were made to hear concerns and address them. The funding support from the Federal Government as well as from the Minnesota and Wisconsin state Legislatures have also been key in making the project work. And, this project will always be known as the project that required an act of Congress to occur. For that, we are deeply grateful to the Congressional delegations from both states.



*In honor of the many, many individuals, who over the past several decades have served tirelessly, donated countless hours of time and resources, and sacrificed much to help us get to this historical moment, we say thank you!*

*We are deeply grateful.*

# ST. CROIX RIVER CROSSING

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Ceremony*

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