Written by Mark Jaeger
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The Saukville Town Board unanimously approved a detour agreement Tuesday proposed by the state Department of Transportation in anticipation of the demolition of the Highway LL bridge at Highway 33.
According to the proposal, traffic will need to be rerouted for no more than two nights between April 15 and May 1 of next year.

The DOT anticipates eastbound traffic being detoured one night, from 5 p.m. to midnight, and westbound traffic on another night.

State officials contend night demolition of the bridge will minimize the disturbance of traffic on Highway 33.

The detour route will have eastbound traffic on Highway 33 turn right onto Northwoods Road, then left onto Sunset Road, proceeding east to Spring Street and then left, to return to Highway 33, which is Grand Avenue in the City of Port Washington.

Westbound traffic on Grand Avenue will be asked to reverse that pattern, turning south at Spring Street, then right at Sunset Road to Northwoods Road, and finally back onto Highway 33.

"This is the route the DOT has asked us to approve," said Town Chairman Barb Jobs.

"The agreement is really just to let us and our citizens know this is going to happen. I don't see how they could possibly remove that bridge without rerouting traffic."

The detour will allow crews to remove the crumbling bridge and ramps at Highway LL.

As part of the reconstruction of Highway 33, the bridge is to be replaced by a traffic roundabout — one of three to be installed on the two-mile road project between Saukville and Port Washington.

Roundabouts are also planned at Northwoods Road and Market Street.

The road work, which will be done from the Milwaukee River overflow bridge in the Village of Saukville to Tower Drive in the City of Port Washington, will expand Highway 33 to a four-lane, divided roadway with grass medians.

The Town of Port Washington will be asked to approve a similar agreement because it has shared jurisdiction over Northwoods Road.