

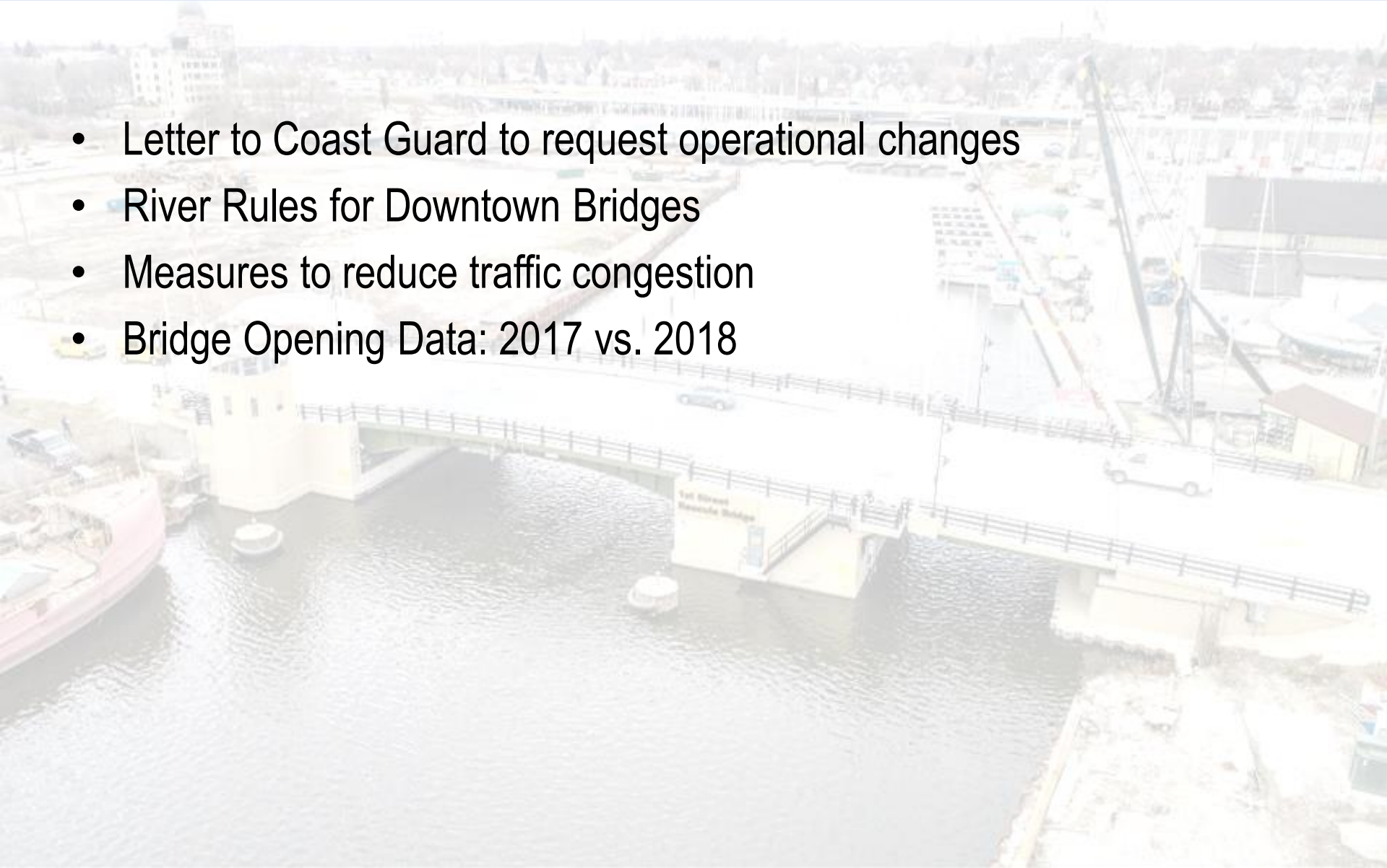
# City of Milwaukee – Department of Public Works

## Movable Bridge Operations



# Agenda

- Letter to Coast Guard to request operational changes
- River Rules for Downtown Bridges
- Measures to reduce traffic congestion
- Bridge Opening Data: 2017 vs. 2018



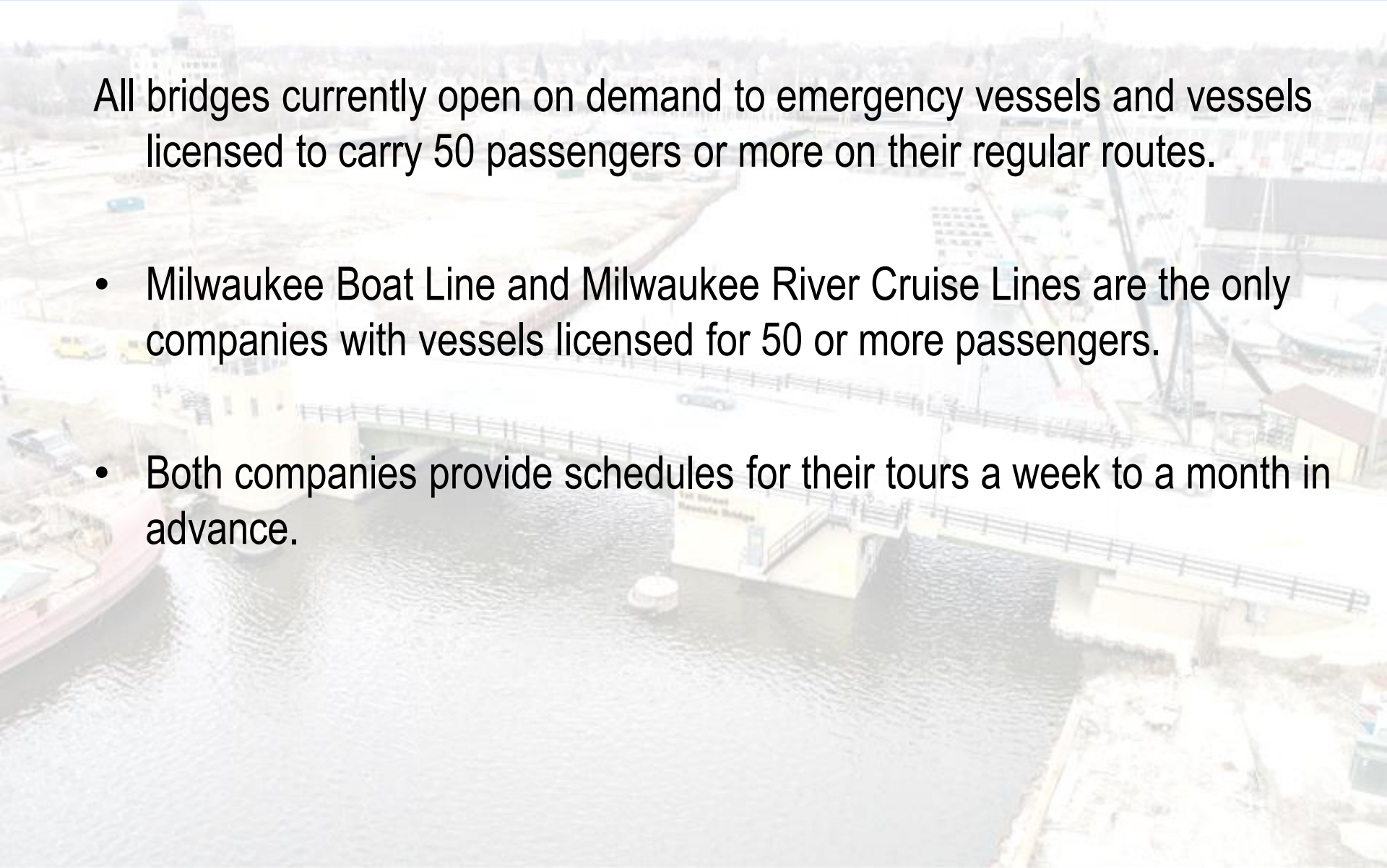
# Letter to Coast Guard

- Coast Guard received documentation from DPW for regulation changes January 2019
  - Coast Guard will ask for feedback from key stakeholders and interested parties.
  - Coast Guard would be willing to meet with Public Works Committee to answer specific questions.
- Changes requested in the Coast Guard regulations.
  1. DPW-Traffic Engineering conducted a traffic study.
    - Suggested expanding afternoon bridge hours to 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.
  2. Broadway, Water, Michigan and Kinnickinnic are currently on demand, 24 hours a day.
    - Request a two-hour notice between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am for these structures.
    - Allows DPW to reduce third-shift staffing.
    - Allows DPW to move additional staff to first and second shift for better operational efficiencies.

# River Rules for Downtown Bridges

All bridges currently open on demand to emergency vessels and vessels licensed to carry 50 passengers or more on their regular routes.

- Milwaukee Boat Line and Milwaukee River Cruise Lines are the only companies with vessels licensed for 50 or more passengers.
- Both companies provide schedules for their tours a week to a month in advance.



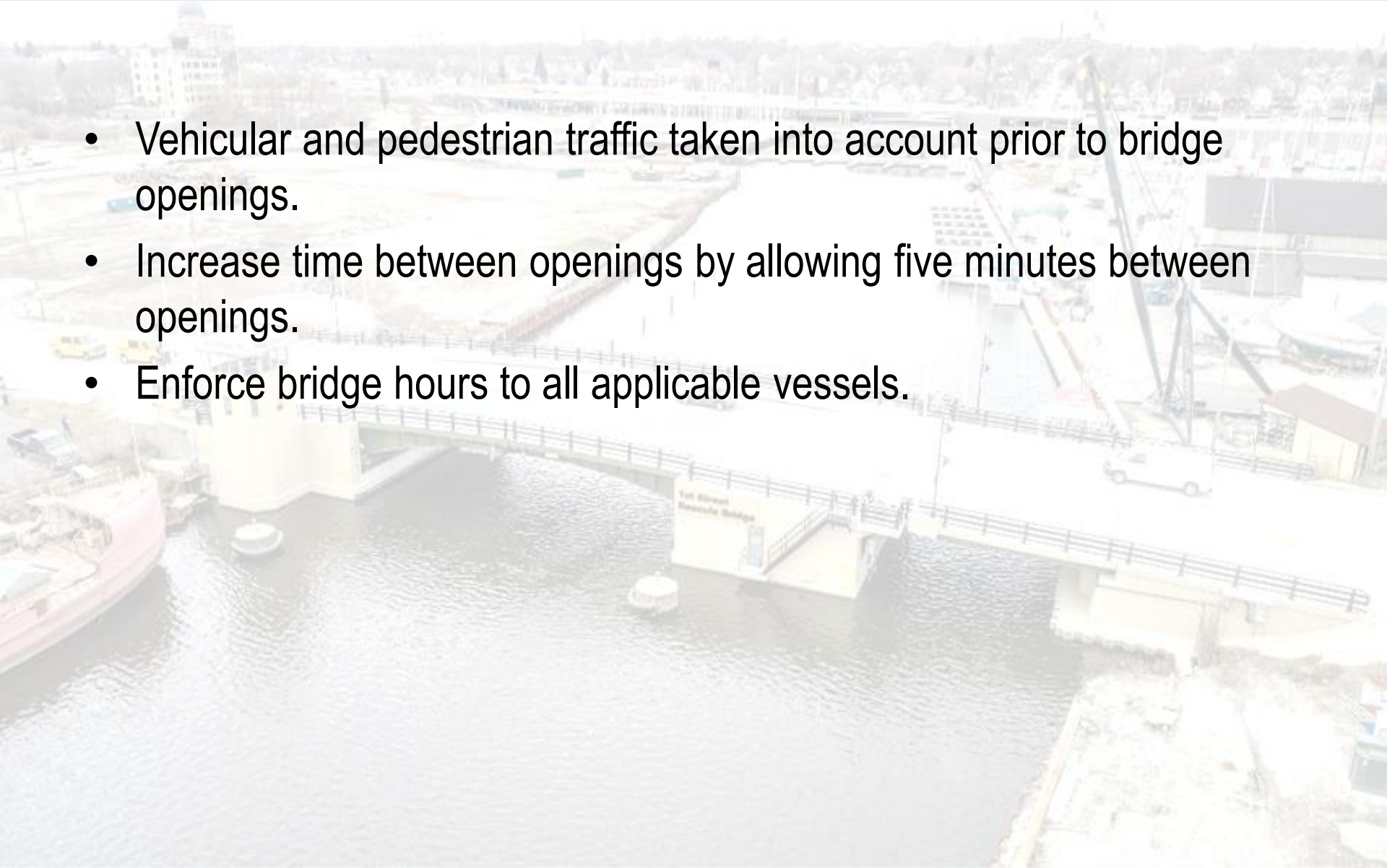
# River Rules for Downtown Bridges

All other boats are subject to Coast Guard regulations:

- Bridges do not open between 7:30 am and 8:30 am, and between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm on weekdays (bridge hours).
- Broadway, Water Street, Michigan Street and Plankinton Avenue are on demand.
- All other bridges in the downtown area require a two-hour notice.

# Measures to Reduce Traffic Congestion

- Vehicular and pedestrian traffic taken into account prior to bridge openings.
- Increase time between openings by allowing five minutes between openings.
- Enforce bridge hours to all applicable vessels.



# Number of Openings

| Bridge                  | 2017          | 2018*         |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Michigan Street         | 3,559         | 3,549         |
| Wisconsin Avenue        | 3,649         | 3,337         |
| <i>Wells Street</i>     | 3,305         | *             |
| Broadway                | 3,073         | 3,072         |
| Water Street            | 3,096         | 2,963         |
| Clybourn Avenue         | 1,876         | 2,032         |
| St. Paul Avenue         | 1,712         | 2,030         |
| Kilbourn Avenue         | 680           | 1,087         |
| State Street            | 635           | 979           |
| Kinnickinnic Avenue     | 1,043         | 951           |
| <i>1st Street</i>       | 276           | *             |
| Plankinton Avenue       | 226           | 216           |
| Remaining Eight Bridges | 114           | 271           |
| <b>Totals</b>           | <b>23,244</b> | <b>20,216</b> |

Wells Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street were under rehabilitation in 2018, therefore the numbers for the two bridges were excluded for comparison.

Using the 2017 numbers for Wells Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street in 2018, the projected 2018 counts would have been **24,068** (824 more openings).

# Number of Openings

## Reasons for greater number of openings

- Increased River Usage, especially early in the season.
  - Commercial Boat Owners noted increased bookings.
  - Broadway, Water, St. Paul and Clybourn, May and June only
    - 2017: 2,775 openings
    - 2018: 3,345 openings
- Milwaukee River Cruise Lines boarded at Highland due to Wells Street rehabilitation.
  - Dock at Pier 106 was unavailable.
  - Needed openings at Kilbourn Avenue and State Street.
- Work barge traversing upriver north of Highland Avenue (Ogden Real Estate).