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Rebuilt Davitt Bridge in Chicopee reopens 13 months ahead of schedule



Brian Miserka of Northern Construction of Palmer positions a sign last year closing the William Davitt Bridge for replacement. A little more than a year later, the bridge reopened, more than a year ahead of schedule. *(John Suchocki / The Republican file)*



By Jeanette DeForge, The Republican
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CHICOPEE - A new Davitt Bridge reopened at 5 p.m. Wednesday, after 14 months of it being torn down and reconstructed.

The bridge was originally expected to be opened Monday, but heavy downpours and frequent rain prevented workers from painting traffic lines on the bridge until Wednesday, Mayor Michael D. Bissonnette said.

Construction was more than a year ahead of schedule. The work was originally expected to be completed in August 2014 but a contract that called for double shifts helped speed up the work.

The \$8.2 million reconstruction was funded and run by the state Department of Transportation. Northern Construction Service, LLC, of Weymouth was hired to do the work.

A ceremony is expected to be held on Veterans Day to re-dedicate the bridge to Rev. William F. Davitt, a World War I lieutenant who was killed in action 90 minutes before the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. He was the last American officer killed in the war.