



STATE OF MICHIGAN
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MACKINAC BRIDGE AUTHORITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

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25,000 walk the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day

September 4, 2018 -- Despite significant operational changes to the Mackinac Bridge Annual Walk in 2018, more than 25,000 people participated in the 61-year tradition this Labor Day.

"The comments we heard both during the walk and those submitted through our website afterward have been very positive," said Bob Sweeney, executive secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA). "We had no major issues and no traffic backups during the event, so we're very pleased with how everything went."

The most significant change to the walk was that it started from both ends of the bridge, eliminating the need for buses transporting participants from Mackinaw City to St. Ignace. Many people reported walking the entire bridge, either in one or both directions, and arranged their own transportation, if needed. No participants were turned away when the starting points were closed at 11:30 a.m. View a time lapse video of the walk [here](#).

The bridge was closed to public traffic from 6:30 a.m. to noon during the event, as it was in 2017. Again, no traffic backups were reported on the highways and freeways approaching the bridge during the walk, and the bridge reopened at noon as planned.

Starting the walk from both ends of the bridge offered new options for participants, including turning around at the midpoint of the bridge and returning to the city they started from, walking the entire bridge and arranging their own transportation, or walking the entire bridge twice and returning to the city they started from.

The MBA decided to close the bridge to public traffic during the walk beginning in 2017, based on recommendations from the Michigan State Police and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Emergency vehicles are still be permitted to cross the bridge during the event, but no public vehicles were allowed until the walk concluded and participants were off the bridge.

Photo caption information:

Mackinac Bridge Walk 2018 from Mackinaw City.jpg – A view of the 2018 Annual Bridge Walk from Mackinaw City showing participants starting onto the bridge and exiting. © 2018 MDOT Photography Unit

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NORTH
75

WATCH FOR SLIPPERY TRUCKS

ALL TRUCKS MUST MAINTAIN 500 FT MINIMUM SPACING NO TAILGATING

MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMIT 72 TONS