

North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

January 18, 2007

For more information, contact:

Mike Kopp, DOT Public Information Coordinator, Memorial Bridge, (701) 471-8509
NDDOT Communications, (701) 328-2671

Prep work continues on Memorial Bridge east side pier 10 Water levels and weather will affect late winter plans for piers 6, 7 and 8

Bismarck— Work crews with Lunda Construction are vibrating sheet piling into the sandbar on the Bismarck side of the river to start work for pier 10 of the Liberty Memorial Bridge. The ring of sheet piling driven down in the sand will form the cofferdam for pier 10. The 75-foot lengths of sheet piling will be driven deeply enough so that sand inside the cofferdam can be excavated about 45-feet down to build the footings for pier 10. It's expected the excavation will be done in about two to three weeks. Pile-driving could begin inside the cofferdam the first week in February.

Crews are in the final stages of preparing to place concrete in the two pier column forms at pier 7. Concrete placement on pier 7 will depend on cooperative weather and water levels. If the river level comes up more than current levels, it will flood the base of the forms at pier 7 and the concrete placement will be postponed.

The second water-bound pier on the west side pier 8 could be the next to be formed and built if weather and water levels cooperate. If conditions are unfavorable, the crane at pier 7 will not go to pier 8, but will come off the water and begin pile driving on transition pier 6 on the west approach.

On the west side, concrete will be placed for the first two Y-shaped pier columns of the bridge at pier 2 next week. Crews are finishing the form work and reinforcing steel placement inside the two pier columns. The two pier columns will take about 24 cubic yards of concrete. Lunda Construction will use cold weather concrete placement procedures for all concrete pours scheduled for next week.

The latest photographs, traffic advisories with maps and other information are available at the website, <http://www.memorialbridge.info> .

###