

# North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

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## Memorial Bridge contractor sets sights on increased spring production

**Bismarck** – Lunda Construction crews today are placing concrete at the east approach of Liberty Memorial Bridge. The 104 cubic yard pour at the east abutment, or pier 15 footings is a step toward completing the east approach. It follows the grading and block installation that is nearly done on the east side concrete retaining wall.

Lunda area manager Joe Larson said, “We’re making good progress now that we finally have decent weather. It’s nice to get a breather from the freezing temps.”

Larson said that because the temperatures are warmer, crews can work more efficiently; with lighter winds it is easier to set the tall forms for transition pier 6. The interior wall forms for the large pier have been set and crews with J&L Steel are installing re-enforcement steel.

Missouri River levels will determine when crews go back out on the water to strip the twin columns at pier 7, continue work on pier 8 and start work on pier 9. North Dakota Department of Transportation project engineer Doug Fercho said, “The river level has been very consistent. It hasn’t changed much in weeks.”

“The project is about 25 percent complete,” said Fercho, “but when spring comes, the ice goes out and Lunda starts setting steel, the completion percentage will increase quickly.”

Larson said that there are about 16 Lunda workers at the job now and it’s expected that when crews start setting steel girders that as many as 25 workers are expected to be on site with Lunda. “I’ve got a stack of applications on my desk,” said Larson. “There’s no shortage of qualified workers here.”

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

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