

# North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

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## Corps announcement is good news for Memorial Bridge project Warmer weather eases project tasks

**Bismarck** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announcement of no spring pulse of Missouri River levels in March means work on Bismarck’s Liberty Memorial Bridge can proceed without the threat of high water levels. Forms remaining at Pier 7, work at piers 10 and 11 and the temporary work road to piers 10 and 11 may have been threatened by the annual rise in Missouri River levels. North Dakota Department of Transportation project engineer Doug Fercho said, “Maintaining river levels without the pulse is good news. It means that work could progress and hopefully remain on schedule.”

The Army Corps of Engineers on Wednesday said that “Moderating temperatures in mid-February greatly reduced the amount of ice on the Missouri River. This, coupled with heavy snowfall on March 1 over much of the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska and western Iowa, allowed for significant reductions in releases from the system of reservoirs.”

The Corps’ plan means Lunda Construction can continue to excavate sand from inside the cofferdam at pier 10 on the Bismarck sandbar. Crews are also preparing to build, and set the cofferdam at pier 11. Proceeding with both those piers means work will keep moving forward on both the approaches and the main span of the bridge. Residents on the east side of the project will hear pile-driving toward the end of the month.

On the west side of the project, expected warmer weather has meant some cold weather construction techniques may be set aside on the building of the large transition pier 6. It is possible concrete could be placed in pier 6 the last week in March.

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

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