

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 – Work continues to reach toward the main river span of the Liberty Memorial Bridge. Lunda Construction project manager Joel Myers said, “We’re working as we can on land on both sides of the river, but once it thaws, we’ll push out to pier 8.”

The river channel has opened, but ice remains on the eastern side of the project. Without the Army Corps of Engineers river release pulse that was cancelled this year, the ice is expected to go out quickly. Air temperatures in the 40s and 50s for the next 10 days to two weeks could contribute to quick ice melting and a re-establishment of work on the river. . North Dakota Department of Transportation project engineer Doug Fercho said, “There’s been some minor fluctuation of river levels, but for the most part, it’s remained consistent. Any rises in the water level could be from run off of melted snow due to the warm weather the first of the week. The Corps is keeping releases constant at Garrison. That’s helpful here at the bridge project.”

In the meantime, crews are working on both sides of the river. On the east side, they are digging down to the required depth, about 45 feet below ground surface, for the cofferdam for pier 10. Once it is at grade, pile will be driven and the 8-foot thick seal slab will be placed. Crews are also getting set to start the cofferdam for pier 11. Both piers 10 and 11 are on the Bismarck sandbar.

On the west side, one of the larger concrete pours of the project is expected next week, possibly Thursday. The east side transition pier 6 will take about 1,000 cubic yards of concrete, or slightly more than 100 truck loads. The pour is expected to last all day. Transition pier 6 is the large box-like structure similar to its twin on the east side. It will form the transition from the bridge approach to the main bridge structure.

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

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