

North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

May 3, 2007

For more information, contact:

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

Large mid-river concrete pour planned next week for Memorial Bridge

Bismarck – The winter’s work of getting ready for this summer’s construction is paying off according to North Dakota Department of Transportation project engineer, Doug Fercho. Crews are set to place concrete in the two pier columns at pier 8, Wednesday, May 9, which means that boaters need to use caution due to an increase in construction traffic. The 400-cubic yard pour will require nearly 50 truckloads of concrete. The day-long pour will require barges, cranes and equipment to shuttle back and forth from the Mandan side of the river to pier 8. Once concrete has been placed for the pier columns at pier 8, workers will turn their attention to the last pier to be built, pier 9, which is just off the sandbar on the Bismarck side of the river.

Most of the east side approach is finished because crews worked through the winter. The piers are complete and the beams have been set. Crews are working on the two sandbar piers, preparing the pier columns and other substructure elements for concrete placement later this month.

Drivers need to be alert in the work area. Eastbound drivers on Memorial Highway in Mandan cannot access northbound Bismarck Expressway. That loop is closed and detour signs direct drivers to 46th Street, then to McKenzie Avenue to access Bismarck Expressway.

Northbound drivers on Bismarck Expressway also cannot exit to Memorial Highway because that ramp is closed. Signs direct drivers to a detour on McKenzie Avenue to 46th Street to access Memorial Highway.

Commuters on Memorial Highway in Mandan and Main Avenue in Bismarck may experience a slowdown. The two lanes east bound and two lanes west bound have been reduced to one lane east and west bound. Part of the roadway is closed and drivers must cross over to the other roadway in one lane head-to-head traffic.

Designated turn lanes at the intersection of Main Avenue, Memorial Highway and Fraine Barracks Road in Bismarck are closed, so left turning traffic can create a hold up for those drivers behind them. Drivers are urged to allow extra time or to use alternate routes. The lane changes will remain until summer of 2008.

###