

# North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

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## More water work at Memorial Bridge means more boater caution urged

**Bismarck** – Crews on Liberty Memorial Bridge are working on the approaches of the bridge but are mostly focusing on the main span across the Missouri River. The increased activity on the main span means more barge traffic between the dock on the west bank and the piers in the water. This week, barges between the dock and pier 8 made frequent trips across the river channel. The water route where boaters pass under Memorial Bridge is becoming more congested. It's expected by the end of June, even more barge traffic will be on the channel. Boaters are urged to be cautious as both summer boat traffic and bridge work intensify in the tight area of the construction zone.

“For the most part, boaters have respected our no-wake zone,” said Lunda Area Manager Joe Larson. “But when we start setting steel, we will have our patrol boats in the area to keep it safe for both boaters and our work crews.”

Vehicular traffic is flowing smoothly through the area. North Dakota Department of Transportation project engineer Doug Fercho said bottlenecks that occurred soon after lanes were narrowed last week have improved. Lane squeezes on both Main Avenue in Bismarck and Memorial Highway in Mandan restricted traffic. “Traffic is flowing through the intersections more quickly with less wait time,” he said. Drivers are allowing more time to pass through the construction zone and the intersection of Main Avenue and Memorial Highway in Bismarck.

Memorial Bridge and Memorial Highway in Mandan, also known as the Strip are open and will remain open during the construction project. A short bypass detour on Captain Marsh drive will re-route local traffic away from construction on the west abutment. The bypass will last through the year.

The main span of the bridge is between the transition piers 6 and 12. Approaches include piers 1-6 on the east and 12-15 on the west, and are essentially completed. Some decking of the approach spans on the east will begin next week. Box girders are planned to be set on the west approach in two weeks.

Next week, crews will start pile driving on pier 11 and continue work on pier columns at pier 10, both on the Bismarck sandbar.

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