

North Dakota Department of Transportation

NEWS

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Protecting sandbar key to roadwork at Memorial Bridge

Bismarck— Liberty Memorial Bridge subcontractor Strata Construction started building a temporary work road from the east shore out into the water on this week. The work follows permitting by the Army Corps of Engineers and will follow a procedure to protect the sandbar in accordance with any environmental concerns.

DOT Project Manager Doug Fercho said Strata will lay down a fabric on top of the sandbar on which the work road will be built. There will be minimal disturbance of essential vegetation and topsoil. Once it's built, the temporary roadway will allow the prime contractor, Lunda to reach piers 9 and 10. Work will begin on those parts of the new bridge within the next few weeks. When no longer needed, the road and the fabric will be removed and the sandbar restored to original condition.

Work crews are also preparing to dismantle the cofferdam at pier 8. In the same way that the pier 7 cofferdam was removed, workers will finish the surface of the pier stems, backfill the base and then remove the sheet piling.

At pier 7, the framework is being built to hold the forms for the extension of the pier stems that are now above water level. Once completed, the forms will extend 50 feet to 60 feet above the water surface.

On Friday, Lunda work crews are expected to pour the pier cap at pier 13. The pier cap will support the concrete beams for the approach structure that will span from Memorial Highway to the main river bridge.

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

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