



PROJECT UPDATE: HIP HIP HOORAY! The last piece is in place and the arch span system is **NOW** connected on the new Amelia Earhart Signature Gateway Bridge in Atchison. Crews have now begun the process of securing 800 bolts on this final piece. See more photos from today's milestone celebration on KDOT's Northeast Kansas Facebook page located online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/NEKansasKDOT>

The south side (lower side in photo above taken today) of the arch span section was successfully connected at approximately 10:15 a.m., today, Friday, June 15.

You will note the tree secured to the arch span section. This tree symbolizes the fact that as of today, no injuries or fatalities of Ironworkers has occurred on this project. The Ironworkers completed the construction work on the arch span system on the new AE Bridge.



PROJECT UPDATE: The north side (left side in photo above taken on June 6) of the arch span section was successfully connected on Wednesday, June 13 at approximately 10:00 a.m. Crews hoisted the piece beginning at 7:30 a.m. but due to a few minor delays, it was not fully connected until 10:00 a.m. The south side (right side in photo above) is scheduled for connection (see below for more information) this Friday, June 15 between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., pending any unforeseen delays.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Contact: Kimberly Qualls, (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org



UPDATE #2! New US-59/Amelia Earhart Bridge Project Update: Final Piece of Arch Span Connection Scheduled for this **Friday, June 15**

Construction of the US-59 Amelia Earhart Bridge in Atchison continues to reach new heights. This week a milestone will take place as crews complete final connection work on the arch span section of the new bridge.

At 7:30 a.m., **Friday, June 15**, crews will put in place the final piece on the south side of the arch. **By 7:45 a.m., the arch span section of the bridge will be completed. Due to some technical issues, the south side arch completion has been rescheduled to Friday, June 15, same time, same place.**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the project contractor ask that all visitors and media view the work from the **Riverfront Park** area in Atchison. **Riverfront Park** is located north of the existing and new bridges, just east of 2nd Street. The park provides an unobstructed view of the connection work and has plenty of parking. **KDOT recommends that you be in the park area no later than 7:15 a.m. this Friday.** It will take crews approximately 15 minutes to hoist the final piece into

place, then the bolting will begin. No one (media included) will be allowed on the bridge deck of the new or existing bridge due to safety concerns.

For those who can't make it to the **Riverfront Park** area, the work can be seen on the AE Bridge Project webcam at: www.ksdot.org/aebridge. Camera images refresh every 15 minutes and users can view time lapsed images in sequential order over an extended period of time on the online site.

Once the arch span section is connected, the arch span cables will be secured and removal of the cranes will begin. Once the cranes are removed, crews will then begin work to complete the bridge deck.

The new AE Bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in September 2012. The removal of the existing bridge is scheduled for early 2013.

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge, a four-lane, tied arch structure will stretch nearly 2,500 feet, distinguished by its double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting. It will replace the existing two-lane structure, which was completed in 1938 and is too narrow to handle some of today's larger truck loads and farm implements. The extra lanes also will accommodate the greater numbers of vehicles that now pass over the bridge daily.

The AE bridge replacement is a cooperative project funded KDOT and the Missouri Department of Transportation. Of the \$59.4 million construction cost, Kansas will contribute \$30.6 million and MoDOT will contribute \$28.8 million.

KDOT urges all motorists to be alert, obey the warning signs, and "Give 'Em a Brake!" when approaching and driving through the project work zone. For more information on the AE Bridge Project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Michelle Anschutz, Horton Construction Engineer, at (785) 486-2142.

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This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

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