

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=13352>

AE Arch Span to be Completed Friday

This week a milestone will take place as crews complete final connection work on the arch span section of the Amelia Earhart Bridge Friday morning.

Due to some technical issues, the south side arch completion has been rescheduled from Thursday

At 7:30, crews will put in place the final piece on the south side of the arch.

By 7:45, the arch span section of the bridge will be completed.

The Kansas Department of Transportation and the project contractor ask that all visitors and media view the work from the River Side Park area in Atchison.

River Side 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.

It will take crews approximately 15 minutes to hoist the final piece into place, and 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 River Side Park area, the work can be seen on the 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.

The north side of the arch span section was successfully connected Wednesday morning at approximately 10.

Crews hoisted the piece beginning at 7:30 but due to a few minor delays, it was not fully connected until then.

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 bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in September 2012.

The removal of the existing bridge is scheduled for early 2013.

Many Signals Communications