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Amelia Earhart Bridge Project Delayed Again

(KAIR) -- The new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison was scheduled to open to traffic in late October 2012, but that date has now been rescheduled to late November 2012, weather permitting.

Crews are currently finishing steel stringer installation work on the bridge deck and parts of the deck itself cannot be poured until this work is done.

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 removal of the existing bridge is scheduled for early 2013.

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.

As a reminder you can view the ongoing project progress on construction of the new bridge via webcam images available online. The images which are refreshed every 15 minutes can be viewed at www.ksdot.org/aebridge.

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