



News Release
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NEW MILTON-MADISON BRIDGE TAKING SHAPE

Workers preassembling truss bridge on barges

Louisville, Ky. (October 28, 2011) – A 600-foot, 1,700-ton section of the new Milton-Madison Bridge is rising above the shoreline in Milton, Ky. The span is part of the new US 421 bridge over the Ohio River connecting Milton, Ky., and Madison, Ind.

Workers are preassembling the truss bridge on barges just west of the existing bridge. Once complete, the span will be floated a short distance upstream. Special jacks will lift the entire section into place onto temporary towers, which are being built immediately downstream of the existing bridge.

A second 727-foot section of span will be built and “lifted” in a similar manner. The remainder of the truss will be erected on top of the temporary towers using cranes.

“At one point, there will be two bridges sitting side-by-side. Traffic will be moved from the old bridge to the new bridge on the temporary towers,” explained Andy Barber, project manager for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). “Eventually, the old superstructure – the upper steel section – will be severed from the piers using controlled explosives.”



A 600-foot span is being preassembled on barges.



Temporary towers are being built just west of the existing piers. (Inset shows aerial view of towers.)

“The pieces will be removed from the river bottom with cranes within about 24 hours,” added Kevin Hetrick, project manager with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). “The final step comes in late 2012 when Walsh Construction Company ‘slides’ the new bridge from the temporary towers onto the existing piers, which have been strengthened.”

The temporary support towers are surrounded by steel barge impact frames (see photo inset). The temporary towers meet the same strict strength and design requirements as any

modern-day bridge piers.

When complete, the bridge will be 40 feet wide: twice its current width. The new bridge – which will look similar to the existing – is scheduled to open to traffic in late 2012. Meanwhile, the existing bridge remains open to traffic for all but two brief closures. The first five-day closure is scheduled for spring 2012.

Walsh Construction Company is completing the \$103 million project, which is jointly financed by INDOT and KYTC. For more information, visit www.MiltonMadisonBridge.com.

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