January 2020

January Construction was in Full Swing for Both Substructures and Superstructures

Approach Viaduct SUBSTRUCTURE

The Substructure is comprised of foundations, footings, abutments, columns, and pier caps that support the Superstructure. North approach Substructure column work is quickly wrapping up. The last two columns are scheduled to be completed by March and will be 165’ tall. Crews working on the north approach columns will quickly transition to the south approach to continue column work. South approach Substructure pile driving has just completed one of the largest footings in the Salt Flat Channel area along with three new columns constructed near E Port Avenue and Stroman Road, which will support the Superstructure. Construction continues to move forward on the installation of the pier caps. While they may look simple from the ground, these are typically the most complex element of the Substructure due to the precision involved with the post-tensioning process and construction tolerances. There are currently three pier cap headings underway with one being used for the north transition pier cap, which is the transition point from the cable stay bridge to the south approach.

Approach Viaduct SUPERSTRUCTURE

The Superstructure is comprised of concrete box girders. The spans are post-tensioned together between piers that sit atop of the pier caps. By the end of January 2020, the project erected 20 of the 42 spans needed to complete the north approach Superstructure. The south approach abutment is in place, and temporary supports have been built to commence the installation of the first span of south approach Superstructure near TC Ayers Park and Lake Street. This is a different assembly method compared to how the north approach Superstructure is being erected with the overhead gantry crane. Pre-activity meetings were held in January to plan for this work to begin in February.