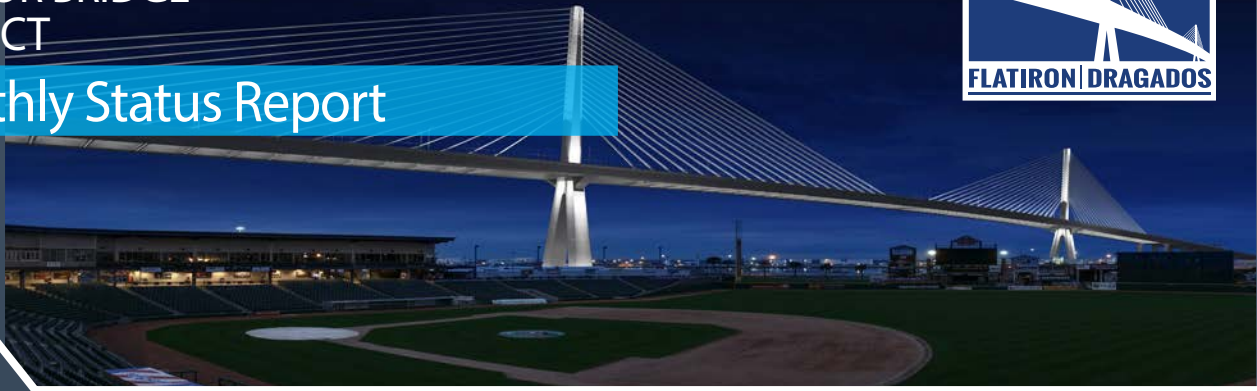




Monthly Status Report



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September 2021

South Approach Substructure Milestone

September ushered in progress across the Harbor Bridge Project (HBP). Approach substructure crews reached a significant milestone by completing the column lifts for the South Approach Piers (also known as columns). Last month the HBP Approach team completed all 274 regular column lifts that make up the substructure to support the superstructure or South Approach Bridge deck. There are 55 Approach Piers on the south side of the ship channel with 1 to 11 lifts at heights escalating from 14 to 175 feet. Typical lifts are 14 feet, 9 inches in height, except for the starter lift, as high as 20 feet. Construction for each Column and subsequent lifts follow a unique design schematic. For instance, Column structures near roadways and rail lines are poured with solid concrete and engineered to withstand severe impacts. Most Columns are hollow with 1 foot, 3 inch thick walls, per TxDOT specifications. The hollow construction allows for flexible movement and accessibility with steel doors built into the second or third lift to allow inner core inspections and maintenance throughout the life of the Bridge. Due to windy regional conditions, columns are poured with a climbing system enabling crews to “fly down” minimal components of the forming system between lifts. As a result, commuters can be assured of the structural integrity of the South Approach Bridge supported by 10,385 cubic yards of gold-standard concrete.

Gantry Crane Operations

In September, our Launching Gantry Crane (LGC) team successfully lifted a 200 foot Span over a Union Pacific railroad track. Months of preplanning, stakeholder coordination, training, certifications, and regulatory compliance occurred prior to mobilizing the LGC over the industrial tracks. Spectators along Sam Rankin Street can enjoy viewing the LGC operation as it advances towards North Port Avenue. Beware if you're driving in the area before 8 am as police escorted 18 wheeler convoys occupy the roadways while hauling our Pre Cast Segments from Robstown to the staging area around the South Approach.

New Direct Connector Opens

HBP roadwork crews exceeded expectations in opening the first of four new direct connectors around the South Interchange two weeks ahead of schedule in September. The ramp connects motorists heading northbound on SH 286 (Crosstown Expressway) to northbound IH 37. The newly constructed longer ramps provide a safer vertical profile or percent elevation change for drivers. Thank you to all commuters for your patience with detours and reduced speeds. Please continue to slow down as you watch history in the making with the demolition of previous connector ramps underway alongside the construction of new bridges, ramps, and freeway mainlanes.



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