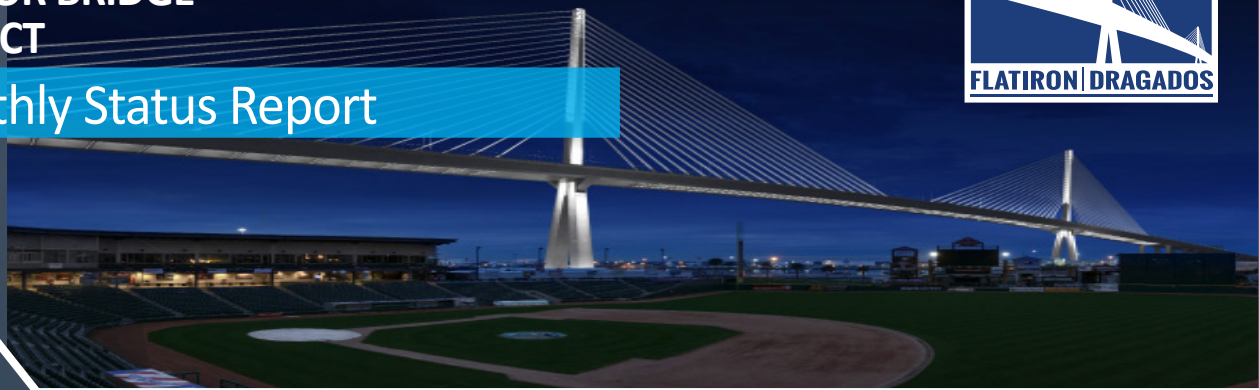


US 181 HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT

Monthly Status Report



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March - April 2024

Harbor Bridge Project Roadwork Improves Connectivity

This Spring, roadwork activities are bustling around the South Interchange. Traffic control crews recently completed new SH 286 mainlanes and opened a new ramp for motorists heading northbound on SH 286 to connect to eastbound IH 37 towards downtown. After opening the new ramp, crews mobilized equipment to begin demolition and excavation to remove a previous detour to the Antelope Street frontage road that intersected Staples Street. By mid-May, commuters heading in the same direction will have new access to the IH 37 frontage road to the intersection at Staples Street, providing smoother navigation to the uptown area. The new mainlanes and connections are built to last with approximately 20 inches of lime-treated subgrade, cement-stabilized concrete base, and asphalt. The routes and ongoing activities bring the HBP closer to the final configuration and improved long-range connectivity.

Additional roadwork progress includes:

Final Direct Connector for eastbound IH 37 to northbound US 181: Currently pouring concrete on the bridge deck for the remaining spans.

Southwest Loop Ramp to connect southbound US 181 to eastbound IH 37: Completed installing retaining wall panels and coping and poured the moment slab, bridge deck, and approach slabs.

Eastbound IH 37 Frontage Road Bridge over US 181: Poured concrete to complete all four bridge spans and traffic barrier rail.

North Approach on North Beach: Poured the approach slab for southbound US 181 mainlanes.

Salt Flat Channel: Continued excavating inside the northwest and southwest loop ramps for improved drainage. (The majority of all South Interchange roadworks construction will be complete by late summer 2024.)

Women in Construction on the Project

To celebrate National Women in Construction Week, the Harbor Bridge Project held an event in March to honor its female staff and gather insights on attracting more women to construction careers. The HBP developer, Flatiron/Dragados, LLC., has about 40 dedicated female employees whose roles span beyond the office, including Equipment Operators, Safety Deputies, Field Engineers, Operations and Maintenance Foreperson, Traffic Controllers, and a Public Outreach Coordinator. During a roundtable discussion, each shared experiences and details about their role, highlighting the diverse opportunities and challenges in the field.

While historically male-dominated, the construction industry is evolving, welcoming more women who bring innovative ideas and strong work ethics. The thriving Texas construction market offers opportunities for all, regardless of skill level, and our joint venture companies are committed to fostering a culture of inclusivity and collaboration. Our recent discussions focused on breaking down barriers through education, outreach programs, and job fairs to promote gender equality and empower future generations.

Despite progress, challenges and a sense of exclusion undeniably persist. Flatiron, Dragados, and TxDOT are dedicated to creating a supportive environment, offering enhanced training, safety measures, and advancement opportunities without tolerance for discrimination.



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