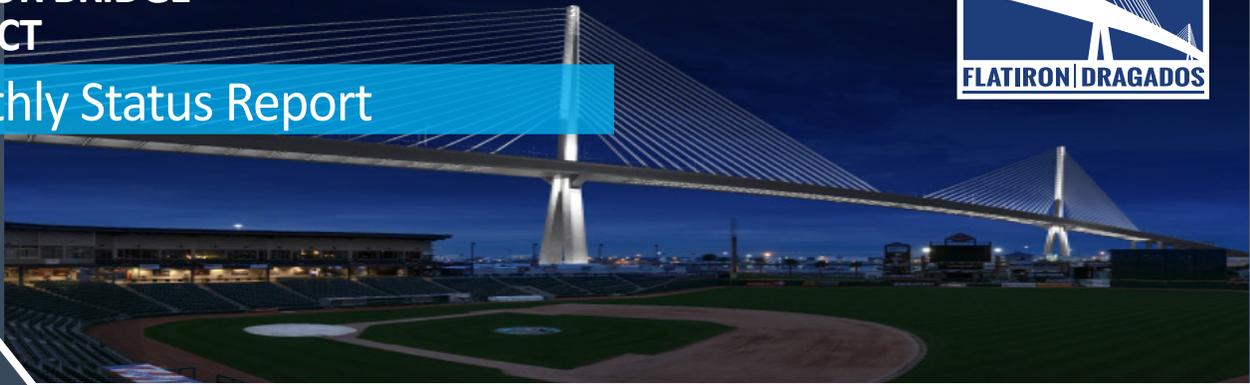


US 181 HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT

Monthly Status Report



Toll Free: 1.877.227.4144 • Public Information: publicinformation@harborbridgeproject.com

October 2025

October marked a highly anticipated milestone for the Harbor Bridge Project with the safe and successful lowering of the old Harbor Bridge center span.

Key Milestone: Center Span Lowering

On October 30, HBP crews executed the meticulous operation to remove the 386-foot-long, 92-foot-tall, approximately six-million-pound center span using four-strand jacks, each with a capacity of up to 900 tons. The span was lowered at a synchronized rate of about 20 feet per hour over a total height of 160 feet, with a precise touchdown on a 300' x 100' heavy-lift barge, to be secured and transported to the Inner Harbor.

Safety remained paramount throughout the process, with mechanical locks and real-time monitoring ensuring stability during lowering. Ship Channel closures were limited to critical phases, and contingency plans were in place to reposition the barge, facilitating a quick reopening to reduce marine traffic impacts. The sequenced undertaking involved careful final bracing, precise saw cutting, controlled lowering, and securement for safe transport.

This achievement highlights one of the most complex marine and structural operations in the state's history, made possible through extensive collaboration between the Texas Department of Transportation, Flatiron/Dragados, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Port of Corpus Christi, and local first responders on standby to ensure public safety.

Historical Significance and Public Interest

The lowering of the center span symbolized the end of the 1959 Harbor Bridge, a regional icon for over six decades. Generations of residents and visitors associated the bridge with Corpus Christi's skyline and maritime heritage. The occasion attracted considerable public attention, drawing spectators to viewing areas along the Bayfront and North Beach. Live media coverage and real-time social media updates captured each phase of the process. Safety measures included restricted access zones and coordinated marine traffic advisories to protect both onlookers and workers. This event triggered a moment of reflection for the community, celebrating engineering advancements while honoring the legacy of a land-mark that connected the Coastal Bend for over 60 years.

Ongoing Construction

Continuing roadworks involved permanent overhead sign installations and lane closures for milling operations and final surface layering. Drainage improvements are underway along northbound IH 37 and new frontage roads on North Beach. Additionally, maintenance and installation of aesthetic lighting for the cable-stayed bridge are ongoing, with nightly mock-up displays on the new bridge to assist electrical engineers and programming technicians in addressing deficiencies.

Summary

Removal of the 1959 Harbor Bridge center span represents a symbolic moment in the Harbor Bridge Replacement Project, showcasing innovative engineering practices among nationally recognized teams. Elements of the old bridge will be preserved for educational purposes, while sustainable deconstruction methods will allow for the repurposing of concrete and steel materials for reuse in future roadway and structural applications.



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