



Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge Newsletter

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Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge Pierre & Fort Pierre, S.D.

Bridge Project Update

Each new year brings a wave of excitement for all the possibilities that lie ahead. As we strive to meet our goals and resolutions for 2024, it's also important to take stock of all that we've accomplished in the previous year. Let's take a look at all the progress made on the Pierre-Fort Pierre bridge in 2023.

Substructure: The team constructed a total of eight bents. Between all the components (shafts, columns, capitals, caps, pedestals) there was approximately 60 total concrete pours! Additionally, with the two abutments and wing walls combined, there was a total of 112 piles driven into the ground. These piles fortify the bridge by transferring the weight loads from the structure to the underlying soil.

MSE Walls: The Pierre-side MSE walls were completed in the Spring. There are two tiered walls that consist of 361 precast panels.

Girder Installation: Whether they came by truck, barge, or crane, the team installed a total of 78 steel beams over six girder lines. Furthermore, the team needed to use a direct tension indicator to ensure each individual bolt achieved the required tension, an impressive feat considering there were more than 39,000 bolts!

Superstructure: The crews installed the superstuds, joists, plywood, and reinforcement, as well as began the concrete placing process for the bridge deck. After the concrete is cured, the team removes all the pieces underneath, essentially working a 131,508 square foot space twice!

Intersection: Travelers may be most familiar with the work completed on the U.S. Highway 14/U.S. Highway 83 intersection. Upgrading the intersection required extensive traffic control and contingency planning. The crews and SDDOT worked relentlessly to safeguard the 18,000 daily commuters during construction.



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Ft. Pierre abutment, April 2023.



Ft. Pierre abutment, Aug. 2023.



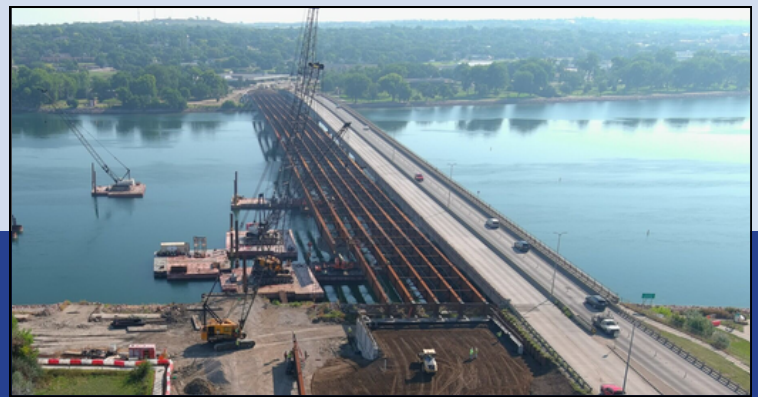
Pierre MSE Wall, May 2023.



Pierre MSE Wall, June 2023.



Pierre-side girder lines, March 2023.



Ft. Pierre-side girder lines, Aug. 2023.



U.S. Highway 14/U.S. Highway 83 intersection, Sep. 2023.



Superstuds, joists, plywood, and reinforcements, Sep. 2023.