



Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge Newsletter

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

Bridge Project Update

The team working on the Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge continued making significant progress over the past two weeks. Crews continued grading work on both sides of the bridge and placed concrete for a significant portion of the sidewalks on each side. The team also continued installing the handrail on the new bridge and are almost finished with stripping the deck forms. This means removing the temporary molds (called "forms") used to shape the concrete slabs for the new bridge.

With all the different work components happening simultaneously, it's important to implement an organized bridge inspection process to ensure the structure's overall safety and longevity.

During these inspections, trained professionals meticulously examine various structural components, including beams, concrete surfaces, and the concrete deck. Inspectors assess the condition of these elements for signs of wear, cracking, or deterioration that could compromise the bridge's integrity. Special attention is given to the piers, which support the bridge's weight, as well as the bearing plates that facilitate load distribution. By identifying potential issues early, inspectors can recommend necessary repairs or reinforcements, helping to prevent more extensive damage

and ensuring the bridge remains safe for public use. By systematically monitoring these critical components, bridge inspectors contribute significantly to the preservation of infrastructure, ultimately enhancing public safety and optimizing maintenance efforts.

As always, we remind all motorists, boaters, and pedestrians to stay vigilant throughout the entire construction zone! Keep up to date on photos, videos, and construction progress by visiting <https://www.Pierre-FtPierreBridge.com>.



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Railing installed on new bridge. Oct. 22, 2024.



Forms for concrete placement on Fort Pierre-side. Oct. 22, 2024.



Form and concrete placement work at Hustan Ave. Oct. 22, 2024.



Class 1 Motorcycles		Class 7 Four or more axle, single unit	
Class 2 Passenger cars		Class 8 Four or less axle, single trailer	
Class 3 Four tire, single unit		Class 9 5-Axle tractor semitrailer	
Class 4 Buses		Class 10 Six or more axle, single trailer	
Class 5 Two axle, six tire, single unit		Class 11 Five or less axle, multi-trailer	
Class 6 Three axle, single unit		Class 12 Six axle, multi-trailer	
		Class 13 Seven or more axle, multi-trailer	

*Federal Highway Administration
13 Vehicle Category Classification*

Vehicle Classification System

The team will be installing a vehicle classification system on the bridge to monitor traffic patterns and assess the impact of different vehicle types on structural integrity. The system categorizes vehicles based on size, weight, and axle configuration, allowing engineers to analyze the loading conditions experienced by the bridge over time. By collecting real-time data on the volume and types of vehicles crossing the bridge, transportation agencies can better understand usage trends and make informed decisions about maintenance schedules, weight limits, and potential upgrades. This data is invaluable for predicting wear and tear, ensuring that the bridge can safely accommodate its expected traffic load.

Additionally, a vehicle classification system enhances safety by enabling proactive management of heavy vehicle traffic. Overall, vehicle classification systems play a vital role in enhancing both safety and performance in bridge management.