



Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge Newsletter

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



Bridge Project Update

On Monday, March 17, 2025, a big step in the demolition of the original Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron Bridge between Fort Pierre and Pierre took place, marking the end of an era. The contractor used shape charges to remove the remaining girders of the original structure during a controlled detonation. This demolition signifies the transition to the new bridge, which now serves as a vital connection for the region.

Crews will work over the next several weeks to clean-up the debris from this phase of the demolition. Demolition of the substructure and pier removal will continue through the rest of the demolition phase. Strategically placed barges, buoys, and lights are being used to keep river enthusiasts out of active clean-up areas and to direct boaters to areas where they can safely pass. The clean-up is estimated to be completed within four weeks, weather dependent.

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Crews inspect the debris from the girder demolition as they begin cleanup. (March, 2025)



Clean-up continues and is expected to be completed in about four weeks, weather dependent. (March, 2025)



The new \$50 million Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron Bridge, connecting Pierre and Fort Pierre over the Missouri River, was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking both a new beginning and an end. State and local officials, including Governor Larry Rhoden, praised the bridge's significance in uniting eastern and western South Dakota. Dignitaries and officials who spoke at the ribbon-cutting mentioned that the bridge stands as a lasting symbol of connection, progress, and historical tribute.



Governor Larry Rhoden and other officials gathered for a ribbon-cutting for the Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron Bridge connecting Fort Pierre and Pierre (Mar. 2025)