**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**I-40 Hernando DeSoto Bridge Repair**

Daily Update

The department has been working diligently with the contractor on the phase 2 design, developing two repair concepts.

* The first concept requires removing the entire fractured steel box member (tie girder) and replacing it with new components.
* The second concept adds additional steel plating adjacent to the damaged area, bypassing the fractured components, removing a smaller section of the fractured piece, and leaving the bulk of the box section in place.

The availability of steel materials and fabrication times for the components required have a bearing on the bridge's opening date. With that in mind, TDOT and ARDOT agreed to proceed with the second strategy using the plating concept. This design will require less fabrication time and offers the advantage of getting the bridge open to traffic two to three weeks sooner than replacing the damaged steel box assembly in its entirety. The final design drawings are being completed, and the contractor is sourcing the steel components for the repairs. We intend to have a schedule for the bridge opening next week.

All interstate traffic in the Memphis area is being diverted to I-55. In anticipation of increased holiday traffic, we are installing an additional camera dedicated to monitoring the Crump interchange, and additional message boards are being set up to assist northbound traffic. We are averaging around 67,000 vehicles per day on the I-55 bridge. This volume is generated from a radar station located just off the east side of the bridge.

TDOT HELP trucks are stationed on both sides of the I-55 bridge to respond quickly to any incidents and keep lanes open. Below are direct links to the [TDOT SmartWay](https://smartway.tn.gov/) cameras posted at the east and west approaches of I-55 for live traffic information.

[West Approach to I-55 River Crossing](https://smartway.tn.gov/traffic?features=incident,traffic,messageSign,cameras&position=35.15976118,-90.14262298,14)

[East Approach to the I-55 River Crossing](https://smartway.tn.gov/traffic?features=incident,traffic,messageSign,cameras&position=35.11247994,-90.07716707,15)

Inspectors continue to review hours of drone video and numerous pictures of the I-55 bridge. So far, there is nothing of concern. We will release the final report when available.

We continue to hold daily meetings with ARDOT, our consultants, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Memphis Police Department, and FHWA to develop and expedite the repair project while managing traffic along the alternate routes.

We have a webpage dedicated to the bridge repair. For the daily updates and press releases, click on **Library** from your menu options: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/i-40-hernando-desoto-bridge.html>. Also, please follow us on social media for the latest.

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