**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**I-40 Hernando DeSoto Bridge Repair**

Daily Update

Contractors were able to make significant progress over the weekend. All 17 plates are in place. Drilling, bolting, and torqueing are ongoing. A reminder the complete installation of these plates is a process that also involves the removal of the lateral bracing, modification of the gusset connection plate, and reinstallation of the lateral bracing.  Once the last bolt is torqued on the plate, these items can be completed. On Wednesday, we will be load testing the bridge to monitor the performance using the existing sensors on the bridge. The data will be used to monitor how the stresses are transferred throughout the bridge support system. We do not have an exact opening date yet, but we are getting close. A schedule will be shared as soon as it’s available.

A reminder, we have added two new portable cameras: One to monitor work on the I-40 bridge and one to monitor traffic at the I-55 Crump Interchange.

* <https://smartway.tn.gov/camera/2327>
* <https://smartway.tn.gov/camera/2326>

All interstate traffic in the Memphis area is being diverted to I-55. To help you plan ahead, every Monday, we are posting [estimated average travel delays for the week](https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/i-40-hernando-desoto-bridge.html) on our website so you can see which days and times to avoid. You can also view real-time digital message signs alerting you of any incidents.

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)

We are holding 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.

**\*Please note updates are twice a week, Monday and Friday**.\* You can follow @myTDOT on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the latest. We continue to update our photo album on Facebook called [I-40 Hernando DeSoto Bridge – Memphis, Tennessee](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=myTDOT1&set=a.10157986173622551). We also have a webpage dedicated to the bridge repair. For 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>.

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