



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Huey P. Long Bridge Big Lift II: Another Success Story

JEFFERSON, La. –The “Big Lift II” operation which began Saturday, November 20 on the Huey P. Long Bridge was completed in 40 hours and roadway traffic was opened 8.5 hours ahead of schedule.

[View time-lapse video.](#)

The massive 503-foot bridge segment was the second of three to be lifted in place using multiple barges and strand jacks The four-span bridge serves as one of the three major Mississippi River crossings in the New Orleans metro area.

“MTI – a joint venture of Massman Construction Co., Traylor Brothers, Inc. and IHI, Inc. – and HNTB performed superbly in all phases of planning, construction engineering and executing a lift that made a very difficult construction milestone look easy” stated Tim Todd, Project Engineer with Louisiana TIMED Managers.

On Saturday, the barges moved into place at 7:30 a.m. The steel structure began to be lifted at 1:30 p.m. using four 900-ton strand jacks. This structure was lightest of the three scheduled to be lifted, weighing over 5 million pounds with its stability frames and measuring 503 feet. The actual lift lasted 7 hours and it involved a 122-foot continuous vertical lift.



In the first morning hours of Sunday, the temporary floorbeams began to be installed. Three hours later, the final 18-inch pin which helped secure the bridge segment was set. By 11:15 a.m. the stability frames used to stabilize the structure during the lift were lowered to the barges using smaller strand jacks. When completed, the widened truss will allow the narrow bridge to have three 11-foot lanes, along with new inside and outside shoulders in each direction.

Due to the size and weight of the span segments, these lifts are very rare, especially in bridge work. The third and final span lift is schedule for April 2011.

By the end of the project an estimated 17,500 tons of structural steel and 750,000 new bolts will be used during this truss phase of the project. The entire Huey P. Long Bridge Widening project cost is estimated at \$1.2 billion. Construction on the original 75-year old structure began in 1932 and was completed in December 1935 at a cost of \$13 million. Today, it is considered one of the longest railroad bridges in the United States.

For more information or high-resolution images, contact Indira Parrales, Public Outreach Office at 504-731-4200 or Bambi Hall, DOTD Bambi Hall, 504-484-0210

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The Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project is a TIMED (Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development) Program project. The TIMED Program was created by Act 16 of the 1989 Louisiana Legislature, was voted for by the people and is the single largest transportation program in state history. The \$5.2 billion improvement program includes widening 536 miles of state highways,



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new construction or improvements to three major bridges projects and the improvements to both the Port of New Orleans and the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The Program is designed to enhance economic development in Louisiana through an investment in transportation projects.

As one of 16 TIMED projects, the completed Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project will include three 11-foot lanes in each direction, along with new inside and outside shoulders across the bridge. The project also will include construction of new roadway approaches that will provide signalized intersections at Bridge City Avenue and Jefferson Highway. The entire project is scheduled to be complete by 2013.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is committed to delivering transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life. In addition to more than 16,600 miles of roadway, including over 890 miles of interstate, DOTD supports the development of the state's aviation, marine and rail infrastructures. Through this work, we are able to facilitate economic development, create job opportunities, improve vital evacuation routes, and make critical freight corridors safer and more efficient.

For more information, please visit www.dotd.la.gov, email dotdcs@la.gov, or call DOTD's Customer Service Center at (225) 379-1232 or 1-877-4LADOTD (1-877-452-3683). Business hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Motorists can access up-to-date travel information by dialing 511 or by visiting www.511la.org. Out-of-state travelers can call 1-888-ROAD-511 (1-888-762-3511).



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