



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Indira Parrales, Huey P. Long Bridge Public Outreach Office (504) 731-4200
or Jodi Conachen, DOTD Communications Director, (225) 379-1275

Huey P. Long Bridge Span Lift Underway

JEFFERSON, La. – Today's span lift of the pre-assembled segment for the Huey P. Long Bridge is progressing smoothly. The lift began at 7 a.m. and as of 10 a.m., the span was about 20 feet above the Mississippi River on route to a final height of approximately 135 feet.

“From a technical achievement perspective, this segment lift is a rare, exciting milestone for the bridge project,” said Interim Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Sherri LeBas. “A project such as this does not get done without partnerships, collaboration and plenty of hard work and dedication.”

Monitored computers now are operating the lift to keep the process steady, level and secure. Once the segment is at the correct height, the jacks will begin moving it in towards the main bridge structure.

The 48-hour closure of the Huey P. Long Bridge is still in effect while the steel structure larger than a football field is placed. The full bridge closure that started at 5 a.m. Saturday, June 19 will end at 5 a.m. on Monday, June 21. Motorists are advised to take alternate routes, including the Crescent City Connection and Interstate 310.



The first “Big Lift” – as is being referred to by the contractor – requires river, road and railroad traffic closures due to the sensitive nature of the operation.

When the widening of the truss is complete, an estimated 17,500 tons of structural steel and 750,000 new bolts will have been used during this phase of the project. The Huey P. Long Bridge Widening project will cost \$1.2 billion. The bridge carries an average of 50,000 vehicles a day. Construction of the original 75-year old structure began in 1932 and was completed in December of 1935 at a cost of \$13 million. Today, it is considered one of the longest railroad bridges in the United States providing two railroad tracks and two roadways crossing which provide one of three major Mississippi River crossings in the New Orleans metro area.

DOTD encourages the public to follow up-to-date information about the Big Lift on the Huey P. Long Twitter page at www.twitter.com/hueypbridge and on Facebook at <http://bit.ly/HPLFB>. Those who wish to watch the Big Lift can do so by accessing two web cameras available on the project web site at <http://bit.ly/HPLWebCams>.

For more information or high resolution images, contact Indira Parrales, Public Outreach Office at 504-731-4200 or Jodi Conachen, DOTD Communications Director, (225) 379-1275.

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