

Northeast District Office
121 S.W. 21st Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1429



phone: 785-296-3881
fax: 785-296-3720
www.ksdot.org

Mike King, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor



Former U.S. 59 Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge **Demolition Project Information** **(Update as of Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 9 a.m.)**

NOTE: There will be blast zone radius changes for the remaining two blasts and this updated information will be provided later today under separate cover. The information listed below, including the aerial maps is correct for the first blast scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

The following information is to provide the public, local residents, businesses and community officials on the demolition plans, safety information and traffic impacts that are scheduled to take place during the upcoming blasting work on the former U.S. 59 Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge spanning over the Missouri River between Atchison, KS and Winthrop, MO.

The demolition work will be completed by the project contractor, Omega Demolition Corporation (Elgin, IL) and two subcontractors, Advanced Explosives Demolition Inc.

(Tensed, ID) and Engineered Explosive Service (Helotes, TX). All materials (concrete, steel, etc.) from the demolished bridge will be recycled by the contractor. Due to possible safety concerns with the bridge debris, there will be no pieces of the bridge available for the general public.

Three Bridge Blast Dates & Times (weather permitting)

****Note: The entire span of the bridge deck is being removed manually across the structure prior to the first bridge blast.*

- **Wednesday, October 9 at 9:00 a.m.** – This day's blast will remove the high truss steel across the entire bridge structure spanning from the Kansas to Missouri side of the river.
- **Friday, October 11 at 9:00 a.m.** – This day's blast will remove bridge pier 9 located in the Missouri River channel (Kansas side).
- **Tuesday, October 29 at 9:00 a.m.** – This day's blast will remove bridge pier 10 located in the Missouri River channel (center river pier).

In the case of inclement weather, the blasts will be independently rescheduled for the next day as follows:

9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10 (instead of Wednesday, October 9)

9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 14 (instead of Friday, October 11)

9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30 (instead of Tuesday, October 29)

NOTE: An official update will be made available 72 hours prior to each of the three scheduled blasts.

Public & Media Viewing Area for the Bridge Blast

The general public and media will be able to view the demolition blasting all three days from the Riverside Park area located off River Road, approximately 50-foot north of the Pepper Mill Restaurant in Atchison, KS. Due to the safety requirements for the 1,000-foot NO MAN blast zone are, this will be the closest viewing point available.

The general public and media can access the riverfront park area the morning of each scheduled blast via Atchison Road east to River Road in Atchison, KS. Downtown Atchison city streets will be closed beginning at 4:00 a.m. on each of the three blast mornings and the entire 1,000-foot NO MAN blast zone area will be evacuated by 7:30 a.m. each of the mornings for both Atchison (Atchison County), KS and Winthrop (Buchanan County), MO businesses, residents and all traffic on U.S. 59 across the new Amelia Earhart Bridge. See aerial maps below for the 1,000-foot blast zone and for the Public & Media Viewing Area. *Note: The 1000-foot blast zone begins at the edge of the first circle on the far left (Kansas side) to the edge of the third circle on the far right (Missouri side).*

Those wishing to view the blast should be in place within the Riverside Park area by **8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 9; Friday, October 11; and Tuesday, October 29.** An all clear will be announced at **8:30 a.m. on all three blast days** and a countdown will begin for the scheduled **9:00 a.m.** blasts on all three days. The estimated time that the 1,000-foot NO MAN blast zone area and closed roadway will be in place is approximately 1-1.5 hours, barring any unforeseen issues.

Traffic Impacts & Detour Routes

Within the 1,000-foot NO MAN blast zone area, all Atchison (KS) city streets and the new U.S. 59 Amelia Earhart Bridge will be closed to all traffic beginning at **8:00 a.m.** on all three blast days. Traffic wishing to utilize the new U.S. 59 Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge must plan for an alternate route during these three scheduled blasts. Suggested detour routes include the Pony Express River Bridge in St. Joseph, MO and Elwood, KS, or the Centennial Bridge River Crossing in Platte County, MO and Leavenworth, KS. The estimated time that the 1,000-foot NO MAN blast zone area and closed roadway will be in place is approximately 1-1.5 hours, barring any unforeseen issues.

Clean Up Work After Each Demolition Blast

After each of the three blasts, the crews then have 24 hours to remove all debris from the Missouri River navigation channel and an additional 24 hours (48 hours total) to remove all debris from the remaining portion of the river channel. Crews will remove debris via a crane that will be located on a barge in the Missouri River channel.

Please see below for a frequently asked list of questions and answers regarding the upcoming bridge blasts:

What type of explosives do we use?

The nature of explosives has dramatically changed over the decades. When a structural steel bridge is imploded, you view the work of a Space Age explosive called a "Linear Shaped Charge". We use this tool to actually sever steel, not "blow it apart". Once the 'button is pushed' all of the charges will detonate at a predetermined interval. The blast machine is mastered from a command post, which is generally set up 500 hundred feet from the structure. Safety coordination is generally directed from the command post, which is made up of the blast team including representatives of the local city.

Do we detonate all the bridge?

The number of areas to detonate will be determined by structural analysis. This analysis includes: the condition of the structure, height of structure, exposures surrounding the structure and direction of fall, to mention a few. We specifically weaken a required section of the spans to ensure the bridge inclines to a non-exposed area or create a non-exposure area via sequencing the detonations.

How will the implosion affect the nearby homes and other structures within the complex?

The most obvious impact will be the fact that the area will be temporarily cleared within the safety perimeter during the implosion. We will ask residents and shop owners within that vicinity to close their windows, turn off air conditioning units and other air intakes, place plastic sheeting over louvers or vents in their buildings and take other general precautions to ensure that dust doesn't enter their structures. Dust is the main byproduct of all types of demolition, which affects adjacent properties. Noise and vibration levels will be generally below those as limited by law (laws vary by state) and would be well below levels that would cause any type of damage, even to older and possibly poorly maintained structures.

What is the blast perimeter?

Through a carefully planned, step-by-step process, the entire demolition team and city officials will be meeting to determine a perimeter, which must be cleared to absolutely guarantee safety of all residents and personnel. Based on prior experience, the area is 1,000-foot from the ends of the bridge (ground level) and a 2,000-foot NO FLY ZONE (ground to air) during the actual detonation of the demolition charges.

How long will the implosion take? Will we feel it?

The actual implosion will last no more than a few seconds. The demolition team will generally place many small explosive charges (usually weighing a few ounces each) at critical locations on the structure. These charges will detonate at intervals to dominate the direction of fall. With respect to 'feeling it', it is amazing how sensitive the human body is! Whether or not you 'feel it' will depend upon where you are at the time of the implosion. If you are standing downwind, you will think you feel it when you hear the noise created by the charges being detonated. Actually, you won't. Nor will you feel the vibration from the detonation of the small charges or the fall of debris at ground level. Seismographs will be used to record the air blast, actual vibration of the implosion operations and the falling debris.

Do we need to board up our windows? Will our windows break?

We do not expect windows to be broken as a result of the operation. No special effort will be needed on the part of any resident or shop owner adjacent to the site. If the contractor chooses to place any protection on adjacent properties, it will be erected and removed by the contractor at their expense.

Will the implosion affect gas lines, water lines, electrical services and other utilities?

No. There will be no adverse effect on any of these utility services as a result of implosion operations.

Will the dust affect my breathing or my asthma?

We are always concerned with the impact of dust on residents who might have respiratory problems. First and foremost, we try to see that these residents are put in a position upwind during the implosion. In other words, if the wind is blowing out of the east to the west, we would like you to be on the east side of the structure so the dust blows away from you. If you are in an area where you do not have to evacuate your structure, it is usually more than adequate to close windows and doors to keep dust out. If there is any question about the effect of masonry dust on your specific respiratory ailments, you should consult your physician accordingly.

How far will the dust travel?

First of all, it's important to point out that the same quantity of dust will be created by the implosion, as would be the case by demolition. The advantage of implosion is that the dust is created at one, predetermined time. In other words, we can all plan for the dust and deal with or mitigate it accordingly. The distance the dust travels depends entirely upon the direction and speed of the wind at the time of the implosion. If it were an absolutely still day, the dust might not travel much. On a windy day, the dust will travel much farther. Most of the heavy dust particles fall out of the air within a few hundred feet, while finer particles can travel at a greater distance.

Will there be any warnings?

The command center will begin observation and final clearance of the exclusion zones at a time to be determined prior to each of the blast days. Once the area is secured there will be a 10-minute siren followed by a 5-minute siren and finally a one-minute siren. The actual 10-second countdown will then be determined once the 1,000-foot NO MAN blast zone area is confirmed clear.

1,000-Foot Radius NO MAN Blast Zone Map:



