

Light Show to Illuminate New Bi-State Gateway Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo credit: Benedictine College Associate Professor Dennis J. Dunleavy, Ph.D. (July 2013)

On **Wednesday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m., weather permitting**, the lighting contractor, Capital Electric, will present a 10-20 minute light show illuminating the new bi-state gateway Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge in Atchison (Atchison County, KS). The lights on the new bridge were officially turned on in July (2013), but the view of the lights has been obstructed on the north side of the new bridge by the former AE Bridge structure. Now that the former bridge has been removed, the lights on the bridge can be viewed from both the north and south sides of this new signature Missouri River icon.

In the case of inclement weather, the light show will take place on Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. There will be no impacts to traffic on the bridge during the light show. The City of Atchison is responsible for control of the light display on the new bridge.

Bridge Project Update: Crews are working on removal of Bridge Pier 10 debris and once this is finished, the former bridge demolition project will be complete. The former AE bridge structure was removed via three demolition blasts that took place on October 7, 11 and 28. Crews are also completing finish and clean-up work adjacent to the new AE bridge structure. Work on both the former bridge removal and the new bridge project completion is scheduled for late November 2013.

The new bi-state gateway Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge features a four-lane, tied arch structure that spans nearly 2,500 feet over the Missouri River between Atchison, KS and Winthrop, MO, on U.S. 59. This gateway bridge is distinguished by its double steel arches on the main river span and special aesthetic lighting (which will be showcased during the upcoming light show).

Construction on the new bridge began in July 2009. The new bridge was opened to two lanes of traffic in December 2012 and to four lanes of traffic in June 2013. The former bridge was closed to traffic in June 2013.

The AE bridge replacement is a cooperative project funded by the Kansas and Missouri Departments' of Transportation. Of the \$59.4 million construction cost, Kansas contributed \$30.6 million and MoDOT contributed \$28.8 million.

For questions or additional information on this bridge replacement project, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340, or Michelle Anschutz, Horton Construction Engineer, at (785) 486-2142. (KDOT Project #73-23 KA 2414-01)

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