



Activities

Historic Downtown Yankton.....11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Historic Downtown Yankton is celebrating the opening of the Discovery Bridge with Entertainment, Live Bands, Give-a-ways, Student Art Show, Farmer's Market & Craft Fair, Youth Talent Review Show and Food Vendors. Enjoy our unique outdoor-style shopping atmosphere in Downtown Yankton after the Dedication Ceremony for a fun-filled day with the family!

Dakota Territorial Museum.....Noon – 4:00 p.m.

The Dakota Territorial Museum, Yankton Area Arts and Yankton Public Library will host a display at the Territorial Capital Building on Saturday, October 11. The exhibit will include entries from the Area Arts' Mighty Mo Photo Show, the Museum's photographic history of the bridges that spanned and continue to span the Missouri River at Yankton, and entries from the Library's Bridge Building Contest.



Discovery Bridge

Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, October 11, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Nebraska side of the Discovery Bridge



Historical Fact:

The Meridian Bridge ribbon cutting was held on October 11, 1924.



History of the Discovery Bridge Project

In the early 1980's, the Federal Highway Administration performed a review of the Meridian Bridge. In 2001 a new study concluded the life span of the bridge was limited. The bridge could be rehabilitated to serve traffic for an additional twenty-five to thirty-five years. However, since the annual cost of a new bridge could be spread over seventy-five years, it would be less than the annual rehabilitation costs of the Meridian Bridge. The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) agreed to be the lead agency on the Yankton Bridge replacement project if the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) and the City of Yankton would participate in a Corridor Study. The study was needed for funding and to be included in the NDOR Six-Year Construction Plan. The study was completed in December 2002.

The Transportation Committee of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Yankton, City of Hartington, and the Pan American Highway Association held discussions with transportation officials of Nebraska and South Dakota about a four-lane highway leading to a two-lane bridge. It became apparent that the NDOR would not approve a four lane highway leading to a two lane bridge. Efforts were intensified by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Yankton and Northeast Nebraska to gain a new four-lane bridge. The City of Yankton (Terry Crandall, Mayor) created the Building Yankton's Bridge to the Future Committee (BYB) with Jim Black as Chair. The City also contracted Don 'Skip' Meisner to coordinate efforts for the new bridge.

Funding was secured through several authorities and transportation funding bills. We are grateful to Senator Tom Daschle, Senator Tim Johnson, Senator John Thune, Congressman Tom Osborne, Congressman Doug Bereuter and Senator Ben Nelson for aiding funding efforts. All elected representatives and Governors assisted in the successful efforts.

The engineering studies and massive environmental impact studies were conducted, reviewed and approved. Permits were obtained. The right-of-way was acquired requiring over a year of effort. Monthly conference calls between the NDOR, SDDOT, Building Yankton's Bridge Committee and others were conducted during the years leading to construction. The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, City of Yankton, and the Nebraska Department of Roads initiated bridge web sites. Efforts were initiated by the committee with the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District, Cedar County, and the City of Yankton to secure funding for trails leading to the Meridian Bridge and the park land between the bridges. Authority and funding efforts for a trail underpass under US 81 north of South Yankton were successful.

A Bridge Naming Committee was formed in 2006. The committee initiated a bridge-naming contest. Beth Rye of the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan facilitated the contest through the BYB website. The contest led to the selection of Discovery Bridge, submitted by Dave Spencer of Yankton.

A tree clearing effort was initiated in early 2007. The bids for the bridge construction were advertised and opened on May 2, 2007. The project was awarded to Jensen Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa at a cost of \$23,903,498. Work on the drill shafts for the piers began in June 2007. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 4, 2007. Work proceeded during the remainder of 2007 on the piers, grading for the approaches, US 81 underpass and the retaining walls and bike paths on the north end of the bridge. The first of many steel girders, 10,850 feet in length, was set on March 21, 2008. The concrete deck work began in June of 2008 and was completed on August 19, 2008. Paving the approaches, finishing work on the towers and railings, final grading, painting and planting is being completed.

Building Yankton's Bridge to the Future Committee

Jim Black, Chairman
Skip Meisner,
Coordinator
Curt Bernard
Bob Cappel
Mike Healy
Kevin Kuhl
Terry Johnson
Gary Kimm

Tom Noecker
Frederick Pinkelman
Ron Peterson
Dale Riesberg
Beth Rye
Al Viereck
Joe Vig
Jeff Weldon
Kristine Winter



Dedication Committee

Tom Noecker & Don Edwards, Co-Chairs
Curt Bernard
George Berndt
Jim Black
Bob Cappel
Mike Healy
Kathy Jacobs
Terry Johnson
Pam Kettering
Rhonda Kneifl
Larry Koranda

Todd Larson
Paul Lowrie
Dave McGregor
Skip Meisner
Tom Moser
Marty O'Connor
Ron Peterson
Mary Pfeiffer
Frederick Pinkelman
Dale Reisberg

Lori Rust
Beth Rye
Kim Sawatzke
Cathy Scott
Dan Specht
Bob Wiebelhaus
Al Viereck
Joe Vig
Jeff Weldon
Kristine Winter



Transportation Committee

Vern Arens
Carly Beusch
Mary Pat Bierle
Jim Black
Melody Bonzer
Jon Bos
Jim Cox
Doug Ekeren
Nate Franzen
Steve Frick
Dr. Joe Gertsema
Jim Gevens

Charlii Gilson
Charlie Gross
Kurt Hauser
Mike Healy
Jake Hoffner
Andy Holst
Dave Hosmer
Jean Hunhoff
Patricia Keegan
Don Kettering
Gary Kimm
Mary Klimisch

Kevin Kuhl
Dave Lockwood
Darren Melstad
Murl Miller
Rob Miner
Dave Mingo
Mike Murphy
Tom Noecker
Lois Padgett
Jerry Paulsen
Ron Peterson

Dave Rehurek
Jim Robinson
Mark Rodvold
Doug Russell
Chip Simonsen
Pat Smith
Eric Swanson
Scott Swier
Skip VanDerhule
Jeff Weldon
Brad Wenande
Bob Zylstra



Sponsors

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Cedar County Nebraska
City of Yankton
CorTrust Bank
First Dakota National Bank
First Federal Bank
First National Bank SD
Home Federal Bank
Hy-Vee
Jensen Construction Co.

Knox County Nebraska
Meisner Management, LLC
Murdo's Aten Resort
Slowey Construction

Stockmen's Livestock Market
Wal-Mart
Wells Fargo Bank
Yankton County SD

Prime Contractor:

Jensen Construction Company, Des Moines, IA
Kurt Rasmussen, President
Dan Timmons, Vice President
Steve Ulmer, Superintendent
Kieth Stoural, Superintendent
Mike Turk, Project Engineer
Chris Hoelsing, Project Supervisor
Tristan Weaver, Project Supervisor
Ryan Adkisson, Project Supervisor

Subcontractors:

Scott Derr Painting Company
Commercial Contractors Equipment, Inc.
United Rentals Highway Technologies
Muth Electric Inc.
Dormark Construction Co.
DP Sawyer Inc.
Dustrol Inc.
Linhart Construction
Midwest Fence Corp.
Tri-State Seed Company
Commerical Asphalt
A&R Construction Co.
AC Lighting Protection
Concrete Materials



Steve Ulmer, Jim Black & Mike Turk



Discovery Bridge Information & Specifications:

Project Management:

Steve Ulmer & Kieth Stoural, Jensen Construction Company Project Superintendents
Robert Wiebelhaus, NDOR Project Manager

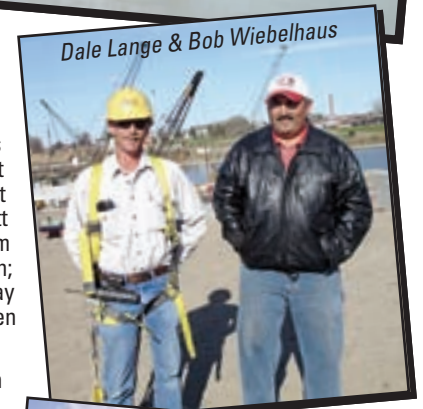
Construction: The 2.1 miles of improvements begin 0.4 miles south of the US 81 & N 121 junction and extend north crossing the Missouri River approximately 1000' upstream of the existing US 81 bridge, ending just south of the intersection of 2nd and Broadway in Yankton, SD. Improvements for this section of US 81 included widening and new roadway construction. The new bridge over the Missouri River is 1590 feet in length and 74 feet wide, featuring 5 piers and 2 abutments with 280 feet between each. There are fourteen 55 foot tall lighted towers above the piers.

Nebraska Department of Roads: John Craig, Director; John "Jake" Jacobsen, Deputy - Operations; Monty Fredricksen, Deputy - Engineering; Lyman Freeman, Bridge Engineer; Kris Winter, District Engineer; Patrick Boyle, District Construction Engineer; Bob Wiebelhaus, Project Manager; Dale Lange, Lead Inspector; Scott Brummond, Environmental Compliance Officer; Jim Knott, Roadway Design; Mike Owen, Roadway Design; Tony Kessler, Roadway Design; John Baker, Roadway Design; Cindy Veys, Environmental Manager; Len Sand, Environmental Analyst

South Dakota Department of Transportation: Darin Bergquist, Department Secretary; Kevin Tviedt, Director of Planning & Engineering; Tim Bjornberg, Manager of Project Development; Tom Week, Region Engineer; Ron Peterson, Area Engineer; Kevin Goeden, Manager of Bridge Design; Tom Gilsrud, Bridge Maintenance; Greg Fuller, Director of Division of Operations; Mark Leiferman, Manager of Road Design; Karen Olsen, Road Design; Karla Engle, Legal Office; Joel Gengler, Manager of Right of Way; Rodney Gall, Engineering Supervisor; Gene Geffre, Road Design; Mike Jordan, Road Design; Stacy Bartlett, Lighting Design; Steve Ryan, Erosion Control Design.

Meridian Bridge: The South Dakota DOT is negotiating a contract for the design to convert the Meridian Bridge to a pedestrian/bicycle facility. Plans for the south approach and the connecting trails are not finalized. South Dakota DOT will own the bridge and the City of Yankton will maintain the bridge.

Project Cost: The current total cost for the project is \$23,903,498.00.



Dale Lange & Bob Wiebelhaus





Discovery Bridge Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Musical Prelude.....Combined Nebraska High School Bands
Kim Sawatzke *Coordinator*

Opening.....Matt Michels *Master of Ceremonies*

Presentation of the Colors.....VFW Post Hartington #5283
VFW Post Yankton #791
American Legion Post Yankton #12
American Legion Tucker Brown Everton Post Crofton #128

The National Anthem.....Yankton Children's Choir
Deb Wiebelhaus *Director*

Invocation.....Reverend Gary Kimm *United Church of Christ,
Coleridge, Hartington & Newcastle (NE)*

Welcome.....Frederick Pinkelman *Cedar County Commissioner*
Dan Specht *Mayor of Yankton*

**Introductions of BYB, Dedication &
Chamber Transportation Committees**.....Jim Black *BYB Chair*

Introduction.....Matt Michels *Master of Ceremonies*

Comments.....John Kingsbury *Nebraska Highway Commission*
John Craig *Director of Nebraska Department of Roads*
Ralph Marquardt *South Dakota Transportation Commission*
Darin Bergquist *Secretary of South Dakota Department of Transportation*

Comments.....Dan Timmons, Vice President *Jensen Construction Company*
Nate Franzen, President *Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce*
Orville Davidson, Vice President *Pan American Highway Association*

Introduction of Speakers.....Matt Michels *Master of Ceremonies*

Speakers.....The Honorable Dave Heineman *Governor, Nebraska*
The Honorable Mike Rounds *Governor, South Dakota*
The Honorable John Thune *US Senator, South Dakota*
The Honorable Ben Nelson *US Senator, Nebraska*
The Honorable Tim Johnson *US Senator, South Dakota*
The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin *US Representative, South Dakota*
The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry *US Representative, Nebraska*

"God Bless America".....Amber Koch Collier *Hartington, NE*

Logistics.....Bob Cappel *BYB Committee Member*

Dedication Comments...The Honorable Charles Thone *Former NE Governor*

Ribbon Cutting.....Governors & Students, BYB, Dedication &
Chamber Transportation Committees

Closing Music.....Sweetwater

