

Building for Tomorrow

The Indian River Inlet Bridge Newsletter



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DelDOT

In this month's issue of *Building for Tomorrow*, we are going to take a look at the bridge as it nears completion. With the bridge scheduled to be finished in January 2012, construction activity at the bridge is beginning to wind down. The stay cables have been installed with only minor adjustments now needed, the closure pour is now a memory, and all of the false work that made up the temporary underside of the bridge has been removed. Projects of this size be-

come a part of everyday life and when they finish the lack of construction activity can seem strange, but as you know they are meant to be completed. That's our job!

This month's featured guest is Natalie Barnhart, DelDOT's Chief Engineer. Natalie holds a Civil Engineering degree from Virginia Tech and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Delaware. She has worked at DelDOT for almost 20 years, with most of her time spent in the construction division. She has worked on many road and bridge construction projects across the state.

A Bridge Not Just for Cars!



An artist's rendering of the new bridge's pedestrian walkway along the east side of the roadway (Skanska).

The new bridge posed some special issues since it is a major transportation link along Delaware's coastline, and a popular vacation spot for people from all over. One issue was how to accommodate people who enjoy walking and

biking along the coast.

This was accomplished by incorporating a 12-foot wide cycling/walkway that will be accessed from the east side of the bridge that provides a wonderful view of the ocean. It also will provide a safe place for pedestrians to travel across the bridge that is separated from vehicle traffic.

A Tree Grows At Indian River: The Indian River Inlet Bridge Park Contract

Delaware Seashore State Park Indian River Inlet Area Anticipated Schedule

Bridge Contract:

- January 2012- Southbound Lanes Open to Two-Way Traffic
- Summer 2012- All Lanes Open to Traffic

Roadway Contract:

- April 2013- Roadway Approaches & Existing Bridge Demolition Complete

Park Improvements:

- Spring 2012 - Winter 2012- Final Design
- Spring 2013- Begin Construction
- Winter 2014- Project Complete

The location of the Indian River Bridge is best known as a part of the beautiful beaches that line the Delaware coast, but it is a lot more. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control maintains the Delaware Seashore Park along the coast in the area around the Inlet. This area is home to many different plants and animals.

Once work is completed on the roadway approaches and the demolition of the existing bridge, work will begin on the contract for the park area that will surround, and even go underneath, the new bridge. The new park will include landscaping that consists of plants that are native

to the area, areas for fishing, parking areas, camping areas, and even walkways to take visitors right to the beach. A public workshop was held on Wednesday, November 16, to let people give their ideas and opinions about the project.

Though many of these features were present before construction on the bridge started, the new design will improve upon them to make the park even better than before. The final design for the contract should be completed between spring and winter 2012. Construction on the park contract is scheduled to begin in spring 2013 and should be completed by winter 2014.

What Does It Take To Build A Bridge?: Fun Facts About Your New Bridge



How many plan sheets were in the construction plans?

About 325

How many plan sheets were there for the form traveler?

About 220



Amount of rebar used in the bridge?

10,400,000 pounds

Amount of concrete used in the bridge?

34,000 cubic yards



Amount of stay cable used in the bridge?

1,770,000 linear feet

Amount of paint used on the bridge?

60 gallons

Amount of nails used on the bridge?

2,400 pounds



A Moment of Bridge History



The photo above was taken in 1939 during the construction of the original Charles W. Cullen Bridge. In the photo you can see the original 1932 creosote timber bridge to the right of the bridge under construction. As you look at this photo, take note of the height difference between the two bridges. The differences between the two shows the increase in traffic that had occurred in the inlet between 1932 and the time that this photo was taken. Larger and more frequent boats traveling through the inlet provided the need for the taller, swing-span bridge, which allowed for easier travel.

What's Next?: What Happens When The Bridge Is Finished?

With the completion of the new Indian River Inlet Bridge approaching quickly, you might be asking, "What happens next?" While it is true that the completion of the bridge will bring that specific project to a close, other phases of construction will be ongoing or starting in the future.



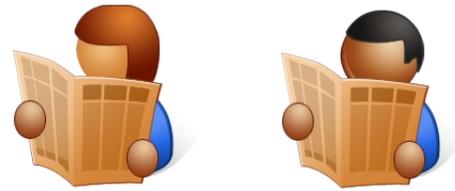
The roadway approach and bridge demolition project will be completed in April 2013. The park improvement project is not scheduled to begin until spring 2013, with

completion scheduled for winter 2014. However, these projects will not impact the ability to move two lanes of traffic onto the new bridge in January 2012, and all four lanes in late spring 2012. .

Final construction activities for the new bridge include:

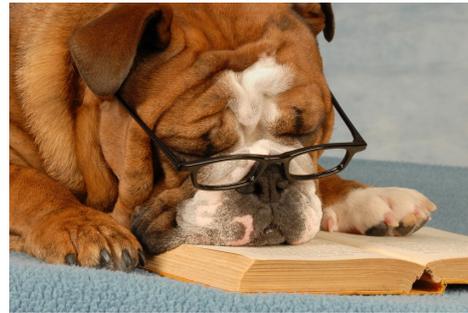
- Preparation for and installation of the final bridge deck overlay.
- Final cable stay adjustments.
- The navigation and decorative lighting installation.

The finish line for the new bridge is nearing and soon you will have the chance to travel over it for the first time.



Have you missed past issues of "Building for Tomorrow?"

They are always available on the Indian River Inlet Bridge Project site!



[Click Here to Find Them](#)



Employee Spotlight!



This is where you get to meet someone who is building the Indian River Inlet Bridge!



Tony Bozzi

Who is your employer?: Skanska USA, Civil Southeast, Inc.; employed for 18 years

What is your job title?: Project Safety and Environmental Manager

Where are you from?: Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Where do you live now?: Virginia Beach, Virginia, but currently living in Lewes, Delaware

What are some special skills or experience that you bring to the project?: The wide variety of projects that I've worked on and the experience that I have.

What is your favorite part about working on the project?: I really like the area...it's a little more laid back here.



Photos from the Job Site

October 2011



The second form traveler is lowered onto a waiting barge in the Indian River Inlet as it is removed from the new Indian River Inlet Bridge (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



The space for the final closure pour on the new Indian River Inlet Bridge is visible before the pour. Once the pour was complete, the second form traveler was removed (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



The barge that will carry away the second form traveler approaches the new Indian River Inlet Bridge (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



Workers prepare to pour concrete in the final section decking for the new Indian River Inlet Bridge. The closure pour was the last pour that was done before the second form traveler was removed (Skanska USA Civil Southeast).



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