

## **Hoover Dam Bypass project 60 percent complete - bridge ready in near future for final surfacing**

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BOULDER CITY, Nev. – Four projects associated with the new \$240 million Hoover Dam Bypass, which includes the Colorado River Bridge – are already done and the bridge itself is approximately 60 percent completed to the point to where project officials anticipate signing a contract in a few months for final surfacing of the bridge.

According to David Zanetell, the Federal Highway Administration’s project manager of the multi-agency, multi-state team of professionals responsible for development Hoover Dam Bypass, those four completed projects are:

- Approach roadway and structures on the Arizona side of the bridge.
- Approach roadway and structures on the Nevada side of the bridge.
- The relocation of all transmission lines throughout the corridor.
- The Colorado River Bridge.

“The bypass is vitally needed to relieve congestion and improve safety in the Hoover Dam area. We’re pleased with the project. We’re excited,” said Zanetell. “The Colorado River Bridge is about 60-percent complete and all of the remaining elements of the bypass are at 100 percent complete so, once we get the bridge done, we’re essentially out of there,” said Zanetell. The bridge is tabbed for completion by year’s end.

Work on the Arizona approach began in 2003, followed by work on the Nevada. The Colorado River Bridge is a composite concrete deck arch bridge. The composite solution was developed to address the specific design issues inherent to the Hoover Dam site and was recommended on the merits of cost, schedule, aesthetics and technical excellence, according to bypass officials.

The bridge, which rises 900 feet above the Colorado River, will facilitate realignment of U.S. 93 and will span the river about 1,500 feet downstream of the Hoover Dam – connecting Clark County, Nev., with Mohave County, Ariz.

By the time the bridge is completed toward the end of this year, an estimated 1,200 crafts and trades workers will have participated in its construction. Working on the first phase of construction on the bypass in a joint venture were R. E. Monks Construction and Vastco Inc., of Fountain Hills, Ariz.

General contractor on the massive bypass project is the Japanese company, Obayashi Construction with offices in San Francisco.

The Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) is responsible for delivery of the Hoover Dam Bypass project for the states of Arizona and Nevada. The CFLHD is the managing partner of the multi-agency project team consisting of the Arizona and Nevada Departments of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service and Western Area Power Administration.

According to bypass officials, comprehensive design services are being provided by the Hoover Support Team, which consists of the HDR Engineering (lead), Sverdrup Civil and T.Y. Lin International.

**\*\*Courtesy of Economic Journal\*\***