



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2011

First Delivery of Structural Steel Plates Arrives

Sherman Minton Bridge Repairs Remain On Schedule

NEW ALBANY, Ind. – The first delivery of structural steel plates needed to repair the Sherman Minton Bridge arrived at 6:30 p.m. yesterday. No abnormal weather or other unanticipated issues have thus far impacted the repair schedule that would reopen the bridge to traffic in March.

The Interstate 64 bridge over the Ohio River between New Albany and Louisville was closed Sept. 9 after a significant crack was discovered in a load-carrying element of the bridge. Additional bridge testing revealed defects and similar cracks at welds, which confirmed that closing and reinforcing the bridge was the appropriate decision for public safety.

Hall Contracting of Kentucky will ramp up installation as more deliveries of steel plates arrive. The next delivery of structural steel is anticipated later this week. Inspectors are monitoring both the fabrication and installation of the steel to ensure safety and quality repairs.

Hall Contracting has completed installation of working platforms suspended underneath the bridge. Subcontractors continue to sandblast and prime the load-carrying tie girders ahead of steel plating being installed.

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NOTE: Hall Contracting is not allowing outside personnel within the barricade zone where bridge repairs are being performed. Photographers and videographers are encouraged to shoot the bridge from New Albany's Waterfront Park. Lightning and winds forecast may limit work on the bridge this evening.