



1443 Brown Street
Bettendorf, IA 52722

I74RiverBridge.com
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NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Media Liaison: (513) 516-6795

Final piece of I-74 arch to be installed

QUAD CITIES – The Iowa and Illinois departments of transportation announce the final piece of the arch for the I-74 Mississippi River Bridge is anticipated to be installed on Wednesday, May 5, weather permitting. Consisting of two connected arch segments, the keystone will complete the basket-handle arch for the Illinois-bound bridge, signaling the final stages of construction for the river bridge.

The keystone installation comes just one year after the Iowa-bound bridge arch was closed, which better positions the project for completion by the end of the year.

“We are thrilled to reach this milestone,” said Ahmad Abu Afifeh, I-74 Project Manager, Iowa Department of Transportation. “It is a testament to the hundreds of people who have worked tirelessly, day-in and day-out, to get the job done. And of course, none of this would be possible without the strong ongoing support of the Quad Cities communities.”

When fully opened to traffic, the Illinois-bound and Iowa-bound bridges will each provide three through lanes and one exit lane, along with full size shoulders. The Illinois-bound bridge will also have a bike and pedestrian path that is separated from traffic and will connect to existing paths in Bettendorf and Moline.

The Mississippi River navigation channel will be closed to barge traffic for 72 hours to facilitate work on the arch. All recreational boaters are strongly encouraged to avoid the construction zone during the keystone installation, and obey no-wake zones.

The public can view the activity from the comfort of their own homes via:

- I-74 project webcams at I74RiverBridge.com
- I-74 social media [@I74RiverBridge](https://twitter.com/I74RiverBridge)
- Local media

“All the hard work that has led to this day is clear, and we’re now even closer to completing a better, safer I-74 in the Quad Cities,” said Ryan Hippen, Construction Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation. “There is still a lot of work to be done, but the finish line is in sight for this landmark project.”

Installing the last piece of the arch is a multi-step process. Two arch segments were delivered on site and assembled to form the keystone, weighing approximately 240,000 lbs. A work platform

was installed below the gap in the arch along with temporary struts and jacks, allowing workers to spread apart the arches prior to setting the keystone. In addition, numerous surveys have been conducted to determine necessary adjustments in the arch position.

A crane will lift the keystone to the top of the arch while ironworkers guide it into place. Once the keystone is set, ironworkers and engineers will take measurements and adjust the position of the keystone to get the perfect fit. Then the bolting process will begin. There are four connections on the keystone, each requiring over a thousand bolts. Working around the clock, crews will secure the keystone.

Additional work on the arch, including installing and tensioning the remaining bolts, is anticipated to take several weeks. After the arch is completed, the cable stays on either side will be removed and the arch will become free standing.

For updates on the I-74 Mississippi River Bridge project and to get the latest construction news, visit I74RiverBridge.com and follow the project on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube @I74RiverBridge.

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