

New bridge opens to traffic this week in Pacific County

Local News

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BAY CENTER, Wash. – Less than one year ago, contractor crews broke ground on a project to replace the 77 year-old US 101 Bone River Bridge with a wider, safer structure. On Thursday, July 25, the Washington State Department of Transportation will open the brand-new Bone River Bridge to two lanes of traffic and restore the speed limit to 55 mph through the project area. The Bone River Bridge is located on Willapa Bay, about three miles north of the Bay Center peninsula. It carries an average of 2,700 daily drivers. The new bridge is constructed of concrete girders, and built to withstand coastal flooding and a 1,000-year seismic event. The project also removed 70 creosote-treated timber piles from the river and restored approximately 82 square feet of streambed.

“The old timber-trestle bridge was built in 1935 for a different era of transportation,” said WSDOT Project Engineer Lori Figone. “The new bridge meets the needs of today’s drivers, with more elbow room to safely cross the river, and helps US 101 remain a vital connection for commuters, tourists and freight.” Drivers may see daytime shoulder closures in September while crews finish landscaping throughout the project area. The [\\$8.8 million, US 101 – Bone River Bridge Replacement project](#) is the first of five bridge replacement projects to be completed in Pacific County. WSDOT is also building modern crossings on [US 101 over Middle Nemah River](#), [State Route 6 over Willapa River](#), and on [State Route 105 over Smith Creek and North River](#). All four bridges are scheduled for completion in 2014.