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# HOOVER DAM BYPASS UPDATE

May 2005 • No. 13

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## Arizona and Nevada Commit Bond Money Governors Help Kickoff Project

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and Nevada Governor Kenny C. Guinn, representatives of the Federal Highway Administration and other stakeholder agencies, held a celebration last fall to officially kick off construction of the Colorado River Bridge and celebrate two years of construction on the entire Hoover Dam Bypass project. The celebratory event, dubbed "Bridging Greatness," was held on the observation deck of the Hoover Dam Tour Center on October 20. Both governors commended the project team for their hard work and swift progress on a project that's highly important for both states, as well as to thousands of annual tourists to the region.



Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and Nevada Governor Kenny C. Guinn present checks representing advanced bond funds to the Federal Highway Administration for completion of the Hoover Dam Bypass. (Left to right) Victor Mendez, Arizona DOT Director; Governor Napolitano; Rick Capka, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; Governor Guinn; Jeff Fontaine, Nevada DOT Director.

## Hoover Dam Bypass Project Management Team

As the Hoover Dam Bypass Project reaches another milestone, the Federal Highway Administration wants to thank the agencies and consultants of the Project Management Team. This Team is committed to working together to advance the Hoover Dam Bypass Project as quickly as possible and complete this much needed alternative route around Hoover Dam.



**Arizona Department of Transportation**  
**Nevada Department of Transportation**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region**  
**National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area**  
**Western Area Power Administration**  
**Federal Highway Administration**  
*Arizona Division*  
*Nevada Division*  
*Central Federal Lands Highway Division*

**Design Team**  
**HDR Engineering**  
**Sverdrup Civil**  
**T.Y. Lin International**

**Contractors**  
**R. E. Monks Construction**  
**Vastco Inc.**  
**Edward Kraemer & Sons, Inc.**  
**Obayashi Corporation**  
**PSM Construction USA, Inc.**

**Environmental Impact Study Consultant**  
**CH2M HILL**

## For More Information, Contact:

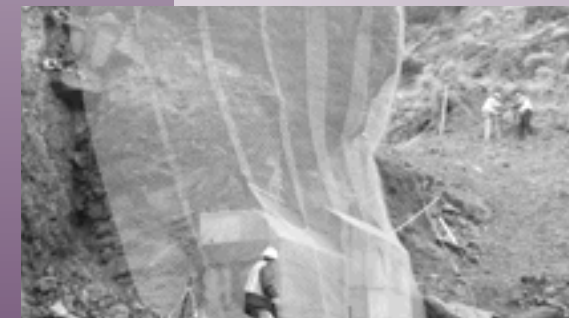
**Dave Zanetell**  
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**12300 West Dakota Ave**  
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**(720) 963-3737**

Visit our website:

**[www.hooverdambypass.org](http://www.hooverdambypass.org)**

**Commercial vehicle restrictions** are still in effect for travel across the Hoover Dam. If you have questions about these restrictions, please call the Hoover Dam Restriction Hotline at 1-888-248-1259.

## Contract Awarded Colorado River Bridge Underway



Crews wrap containment fencing around rock prior to blasting near the Colorado River Bridge abutment.

The Hoover Dam Bypass Project reached another major milestone with the recent award of the contract for the final connection - the Colorado River Bridge. The \$114 million contract went to the joint venture partnership of Obayashi Corporation and PSM Construction USA, Inc. The team began work on the nearly 2,000-foot-long Colorado River Bridge in late January of 2005. Following the expected completion of the Colorado River Bridge in June 2008, the final roadway surfacing will be completed under a separate contract and the Bypass will open to the public later that year.

Spanning Black Canyon about 1,600 feet south of the dam, the Colorado River Bridge will connect the Arizona and Nevada Approach highways over the Colorado River, which flows nearly 900 feet below. The bridge will also include pedestrian amenities, such as a pedestrian sidewalk on the northern side of the bridge as well as site preparation for a Pedestrian Plaza nearby. (See related story on page 3.)

*"We are honored to be a member of the Hoover Dam Bypass team. Clearly, this landmark project is of tremendous importance to our country and is a project we are proud to be a part of."*

- Mike Motil, Project Manager  
Obayashi Corporation and PSM Construction USA, Inc.

**Phase One Complete**

**Arizona Approach Portion of the Bypass a ‘Complete Success’**



View of new U.S. 93 alignment as it crosses the Sugarloaf Mountain Bridge.

The Arizona Approach to the Hoover Dam Bypass, a \$21.5 million project, was completed in December 2004, bringing Phase I of the entire Hoover Dam Bypass project to a successful finish.

The Arizona Approach is the roadway leading from Arizona U.S. 93 to the new Colorado River Bridge crossing, located approximately 1,600 feet downstream of the Hoover Dam. Joint venture contractors R.E. Monks Construction and Vastco, Inc., did excellent work on this highly technical and demanding job, making it a ‘complete success.’

The Arizona Approach portion of the bypass includes:

- 1.8 miles of four-lane roadway (two lanes in each direction)
- Sugarloaf Mountain Bridge - 900-foot bridge spanning a canyon on the east side of Sugarloaf Mountain
- Traffic Interchange at the intersection of the Bypass, the Hoover Dam Access Road and Kingman Wash Road
- Reconstructed access road to Hoover Dam
- Wildlife crossings at bridges
- Drainage improvements
- Trail access parking
- Staining of newly exposed rock cuts

**Phase Two Ahead of Schedule**

**Nevada Approach Portion of the Bypass 70% Complete**

On the other end of the project, Edward Kraemer & Sons, Inc., is making swift progress on the \$30.1 million Nevada Approach portion of the bypass, which is nearly three-quarters complete. That portion of the Bypass project, which began in September 2003, will serve as the roadway leading from Nevada U.S. 93 to the new Colorado River bridge crossing. The Nevada Approach was originally scheduled to be complete in November 2005. However, if construction proceeds as planned, the contractor anticipates an early completion in the summer of 2005.

The Nevada Approach includes:

- 2.2 miles of four-lane roadway (two lanes in each direction)
- Six new bridges
- Traffic Interchange near the Hacienda Casino to provide access to existing U.S. 93, which will become the Hoover Dam Access Road
- 1.6 million cubic yards of earthwork
- Retaining walls totaling 50,000 square feet
- Extension of the National Park Service River Mountain Loop Trail
- Wildlife crossings
- Drainage improvements
- Trail access parking
- Staining of newly exposed rock cuts as determined by the Design Advisory Panel



Site work progresses on the Nevada Interchange which includes ramps and a 160-foot-long bridge.



Wildlife and tortoise barrier fencing is installed in designated areas on the project to prevent wildlife from entering the work area.

**Building a National Landmark**

**Selected Bridge Type Fits Project to a ‘T’**

The bridge type that was chosen for the Colorado River Bridge is a composite concrete deck arch and steel superstructure with an arch span of more than 1,000 feet. It was selected during the design phase because it not only met the technical needs for this bridge, but also worked well to minimize the view impacts that were identified as an important consideration in the project’s Environmental Impact Statement. The design is also considered to be architecturally compatible with the Hoover Dam. The specific advantages of the concrete composite alternative to cast-in-place construction include the following:

- Blends the best attributes of both concrete and steel
- Allows for an accelerated schedule
- Low overall cost
- Allows progress to occur in parallel on site during arch erection and in the shop for fabrication of superstructure steel.

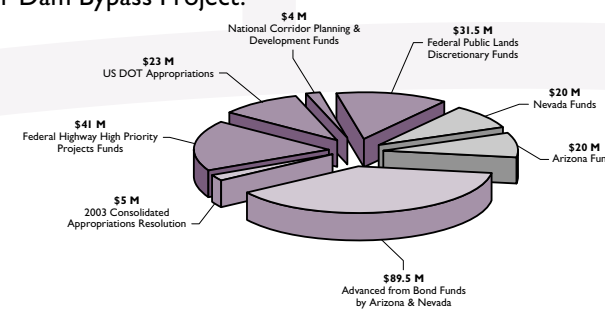


Computer rendering of the Colorado River Bridge.

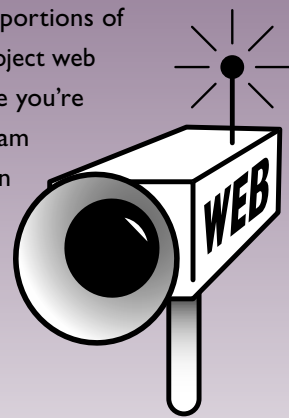
**A Critical Element**

**The Latest on Project Funding**

The Hoover Dam Bypass Team estimates the final budget for the entire Bypass project at \$234 million. That cost is divided nearly equally between the federal government and funds either committed or advanced from the States of Arizona and Nevada, exemplifying the excellent teamwork that continues to move the Hoover Dam Bypass Project.



To see photos documenting construction of the Arizona and Nevada Approaches, as well as other portions of the Bypass project, please visit the project web site, [www.hooverdambypass.org](http://www.hooverdambypass.org). While you’re there, visit our newly activated Webcam to view live images of the construction area. Go to “What’s New” and click on *Construction Activities*. Remember, the most active construction of the arch bridge won’t be seen for more than a year.



**Hoover Dam Bypass Timeline**

