



Huey P. Long pile driving begins

By Deon Roberts Staff Writer

2007-02-19 9:49 AM CST

BATON ROUGE – The \$705-million expansion of the Huey P. Long Bridge will swing into a new mode this week with pilings being driven by Boh Bros. on the east bank of Jefferson Parish, said spokeswoman Talisha Dunn-Square.

Boh Bros. is leading the expansion project's \$12.1-million Phase Two, which involves railroad modifications. Phases One and Two are already under way.

The pilings will add supports for new approaches for Phase Four, Dunn-Square said.

The \$83.1-million first phase being handled by Massman Construction involves widening four river piers on the Mississippi River's east bank and a land pier on the west bank, Dunn-Square said.

"Soon we will be letting the big contract, Phase Three, which is the superstructure," she said.

Phase Three will impact traffic, she said, whereas earlier phases have not had major impacts.

Phase One is scheduled for a 2008 completion. Phase Two should be completed mid-2007.

The state Department of Transportation and Development had a pre-bid meeting Feb. 8 for Phase Three, which should be awarded this year to the lowest bidder, she said.

The expansion, which will add lanes and shoulders to the notoriously narrow bridge, is expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

Before Hurricane Katrina, the state expected the job to be done by 2010, but difficulties in getting materials and rising construction costs have created challenges, Dunn-Square said. •