

HEADLINE: Major Bladen County Bridge Requires Brief Closures

ELIZABETHTOWN – The U.S. 701 bridge over the Cape Fear River will briefly close for about two weeks, so crews can safely transport the girders for the new bridge

The contractor for the N.C. Department of Transportation constructing the new bridge alongside the existing one will use tractor-trailers to haul the concrete-reinforced girders from one side of the bridge to the other, where a crane will then set them onto the headers and piers.

According to the contractor's schedule, two girders will be hauled in the morning, and two in the afternoon on weekdays, starting Tuesday. For each crossing, law enforcement will stop traffic in both directions for about the two minutes need for the crossing.

This process will last for about two weeks, when most of the remaining girders for the new bridge will have been hauled to the work site.

In May, [the contractor had scheduled one-hour closures](#) twice a day to unload girders onto the existing bridge and set them into place.