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Time-Lapse: The first arch of the Margaret McDermott Bridge nears completion



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The downtown Dallas skyline took a major transformative step forward early Saturday morning as construction crews finished the first of two high-flying arches on Interstate 30's bridge over the Trinity River.

It was a milestone moment in a years-long highway interchange project — and a nonprofit's ongoing fundraising efforts that aim to transform the river corridor.

Named the Margaret McDermott Bridge, the structure spanning the river is part of the \$800 million redo of I-30 and Interstate 35E. Dubbed the

“Horseshoe Project,” the massive construction effort is expected to be complete in 2017. When it is, the McDermott bridge will have a twin arch on I-30’s northern side. In addition to new highway main lanes, the bridge will feature pedestrian and bicycle paths that will be separate from traffic.

The bridge is named after 103-year-old arts patron and philanthropist Margaret McDermott, who attended a steel-signing event on the structure earlier this summer. Like the nearby Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, it was designed by acclaimed and controversial Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava.

At least \$5 million of the bridge’s cost was raised by the Trinity Trust Foundation, a nonprofit that has raised more than \$60 million in private funds for projects along or near the Trinity River. Until that group raised money for the two signature bridges, not a single piece of North Texas highway infrastructure was named after a woman.

BY THE NUMBERS

328 feet

Height of arches

1,311 feet

Length of arches

78

Number of individual steel arch segments

38,300 pounds

Weight of the lightest segment

77,500 pounds

Weight of the heaviest segment

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