

New First St. Bridge to open Sat. Aug. 1 - Oxbow Market celebrates



Wednesday July 29, 2009

After more than a year of construction, the new First Street Bridge over the Napa River will open to traffic on schedule Saturday August 1, 2009. There is no specific time set for the bridge to open for vehicle and pedestrian traffic, but it will take place sometime before 9pm. Final stage work at the site will continue through August, with the road remaining open during this time.

To celebrate the reopening of First Street, merchants at the Oxbow Public Market will host a party with food and beverage and live music from the 'Mean Time Playboys'. Festivities will be in the center parking lot between Taylor's Refresher and the main market hall.

During design of the Napa River Flood Protection Project, the original bridge in this location that was built in 1914-15 was identified as a blockage to flood water flows. It also suffered from age-related deterioration. After studies determined it was not feasible to rehabilitate or relocate the bridge, the City of Napa chose to replace it in support of the Flood Project.

The new bridge is 166 feet-10 inches long and 64 feet wide, and accommodates a lane of traffic, bicycle lane, vehicle barrier and sidewalk in each direction. To convey the needed amount of water for Flood Project specifications, the new bridge is about five feet higher than the old bridge. The design by Engineer TY

Lin International and Architect Donald MacDonald includes "state of the art" elements such as illuminated glass panels and lighted obelisk columns.