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New Maysan highway to relieve congestion

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Navy Cmdr. Terry Hart checks the construction quality of new concrete girders which will soon be hoisted into place at one of three bridges being built to double the size of a section of roadway along Highway 6 in Maysan Province. Hart is the Adder Area Office deputy commander for Gulf Region Division South District. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

AMARAH, Iraq—A key section of the main highway leading to Maysan's provincial capital of Amarah will soon double in size.

"That improvement, involving 23 kilometers of new roadway, will significantly improve the traffic flow, from a 2-lane road to a 4-lane highway," said Iraqi engineer Ali Abdul with the Gulf Region Division who is overseeing the work.

Apart from the new roadway itself, the \$5.7 million project includes three new bridges. The overall project is 80 percent finished and is expected to be completed later this year. Currently about 40 Iraqis are on the crew which requires a number of heavy equipment operators to drive the dump trucks, front end loaders, graders, compactors, cranes, bulldozers, backhoes, water trucks, asphalt trucks, and the paving machine.



Maj. David DeMayo, Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team engineer, checks the construction quality of one of three new bridges being built south of Amarah. The road project is scheduled to be completed later this year. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

“Once finished, it will benefit hundreds of thousands of residents living in Maysan and the surrounding area,” Ali continued.

“That stretch of road is the main traffic artery connecting Amarah to Basrah and Nasariyah.

It will dramatically relieve the congestion there and decrease the amount of time it takes to travel between those cities. Local residents are eager to see the project finished. The safer road will benefit everyone,” concluded Ali, who is a lifelong resident of that area.

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