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Bridging the commuter gap

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The much-anticipated bridge over the American River below the Folsom Dam is taking shape.

Residents and commuters have high hopes for the four-lane bridge and a new, two-mile connector road. Folsom, a commute crossroads between El Dorado and Placer counties, has suffered since the road over the Folsom Dam was closed in an anti-terrorism security move more than three years ago.

The city offered this photo and a report from Linda Holderness, editor of the city's newsletter, to media outlets as an update on the bridge's progress.

Bars of reinforcing steel now rise from the base of what will be the concrete abutment on the eastern, or Natoma Street side, of the Folsom bridge over the American River, Holderness reported.

For this bridge, just two columns will support the roadway, or deck. The tower cranes -- soaring 230 feet above the construction site -- mark the location of the columns.

The site for the west abutment, rising behind the far crane, is still being graded. The bridge, being built by Kiewit Pacific Co., based in Concord, is on schedule to open in December 2008, Holderness said.

The columns and the concrete platforms that top them, known as pier tables, will be completed in about seven months. The pier tables will then become the platforms from which the rest of the deck is built. -- Bee Metro Staff

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