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Public Invited to Grand Opening of New Rulo Bridge

(KTNC) - Years of planning and construction will come to an end Sunday when the ribbon is cut, signifying the completion of the new Missouri River Bridge at Rulo.

Residents of southeast Nebraska, northwest Missouri, and northeast Kansas are invited to a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on the bridge's west approach, at 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Nebraska Lieutenant Governor Lavon Heidemann will be the keynote speaker at Sunday's ceremony.

After the ribbon is cut on the new bridge, civic leaders from the tri-state area will take part in a motorcade. They'll cross the bridge from west to east, and then return from east to west. Once the motorcade clears the bridge, crews will complete painting lane markings directing U.S. Highway 159 traffic onto the east and west approaches.

The new bridge will replace the old Rulo Bridge, which has spanned the river since 1939.

Ground was broken on the new structure nearly three years ago, on September 19, 2010.

Missouri Department of Transportation officials note that the new \$25.7 million bridge is being opened to traffic one year earlier than construction was originally scheduled to begin.

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