



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Brazos River Bridge Lighting Debuts June 2, 8:30 PM

*Community Ceremony Celebrates System Startup*

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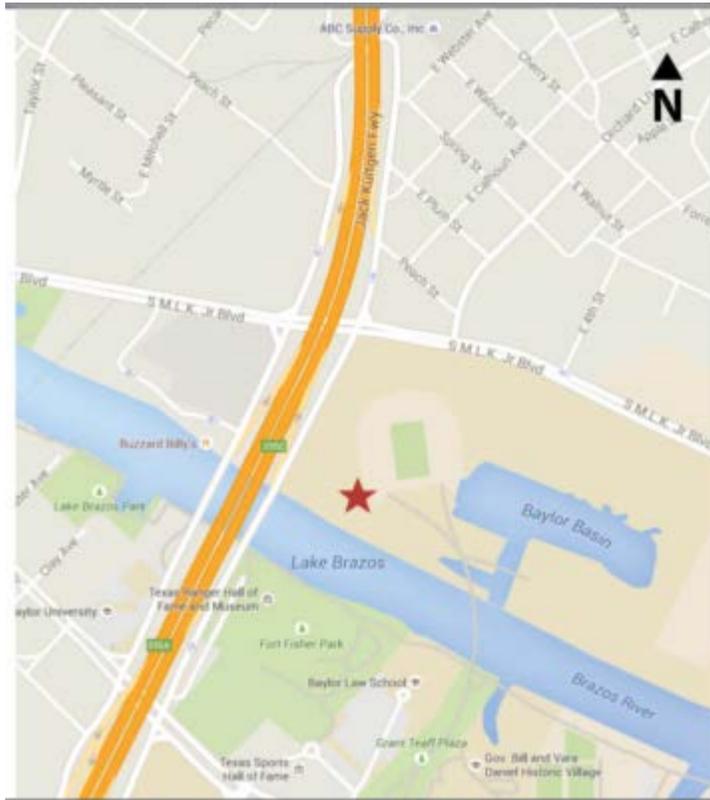
**WACO** – Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 8:30 PM, representatives of the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Waco, and Baylor University will meet for a “flipping of the switch” ceremony officially inaugurating the new specialty lighting system installed on the two signature bridges across the Brazos River.

Waco Mayor Malcom Duncan, TxDOT District Engineer Bobby Littlefield, and Baylor President and Chancellor Judge Ken Starr and members of the public will gather in Baylor’s McLane Stadium Parking Lot A, just east of the bridges, to flip the switch, officially beginning the regular bridge lighting with a specially programmed demonstration of the creative capabilities of the unique LED lighting system that Wacoans, area residents and travelers will enjoy nightly throughout the year.

TxDOT, Waco and Baylor collaborated in partnership to enhance the unique bridges with the system, which incorporates multi-colored decorative lights installed on the bridge columns and cables, along with a computer-controlled operation program. TxDOT and contractor Lane Construction purchased, installed, and calibrated the lights and wiring, which was included in the construction contract and plans. Baylor University contributed additional money to upgrade the system to a state-of-the-art computerized colored-light system. The City of Waco will maintain the system, as they currently do for the continuous lighting on I-35 through Waco. A Bridge Lighting Committee has been established by the City to decide how to use the lighting in conformity with an established policy.

The lighting system is a part of the construction of the new Brazos River Bridges, finished last summer before the first Baylor home game in the new McLane Stadium. During normal operations, the light intensity will be low and the color change will be slow, so it will be safe and non-distracting for drivers.

Designed by Karl Burkett of Maldonado-Burkett Intelligent Transportation Systems, LLC, the system includes individual LED floodlights, as well as strips of lights which are programmable in one-foot lengths. According to Burkett, any of the hundreds of lights can be any color and any intensity, which allows for almost infinite variety in the colors displayed on the bridges. The normal nightly rotation will last an hour and a half to two hours. The special demonstration program Tuesday night will be shorter and will display both the lights on the superstructure and the lights underneath the bridges. Burkett, a retired TxDOT lighting engineer, says the lighting was designed to be enjoyable from all directions. The public is invited to attend the ceremony Tuesday night, and to enjoy the inaugural lightshow on the Brazos River. A map of the location is below:



For more information, contact Jodi Wheatley at (254) 867-2836 or Ken Roberts at (254) 867-2705.

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Efforts to improve the I-35 corridor throughout the state would not be possible without the support of local governments, the Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress. In addition to the ongoing \$1.9 billion dollar expansion of I-35 through TxDOT's Waco District, a number of critical projects are underway in the Dallas/Fort Worth region to improve I-35 connections to I-820 and I-635 thanks to a partnership with the private sector. Meanwhile, TxDOT continues to plan for the long-term future of the I-35 corridor through the MY 35 citizen-driven planning process. For more information about I-35 expansion projects or the MY 35 planning effort, visit [www.my35.org](http://www.my35.org). Follow us on [Twitter.com/I35Travel](https://twitter.com/I35Travel).

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