



## BOB KERREY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FACTS

### DATA

- Length: 3,000 ft., including landings
- Width: Walkway is 15ft. wide
- Railing height: 4 ½ ft. tall
- Two single- towers, or pylons, rise 210 ft. in the air
- The base of the pylons is 80 ft. into the bedrock below
- The Missouri River is up to 25 ft. deep
- At the center, people stand about 60 ft. above the Missouri River
- An Emergency Help Phone is located in the middle of the bridge, north side; push the button to connect to "911"
- The bridge is a *Cable Stay bridge*, meaning cables stretch down diagonally from each of the towers to the bridge deck for strength, support and flexibility, as well as visual appeal
- The bridge is lit along the walkway, cables, and pylons, along with having LED lights in the top of each pylon tower. Funding for the lights provided by Gallup and Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation.
- Bridge designed by HNTB and constructed by APAC Kansas Inc
- The total cost of the bridge was \$22 million
- Official address is 705 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska
- The bridge is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Metro Area Transit buses, with bike racks, offer routes to both sides of the bridge
- Parking is available on Riverfront Drive at Lewis & Clark Landing, the National Park Service (evenings and weekends), and Miller's Landing

### HISTORY

- Construction began in Fall 2006
- The bridge officially opened September 28, 2008 – two months ahead of schedule
- Funding for the bridge came from former U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey who secured a \$19 million federal earmark before leaving office in 2000
- The NE Department of Roads, IA Department of Transportation and Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District provided additional funds, as well as Iowa West Foundation, and the Peter Kiewit Foundation.
- The bridge was named by a six-person committee, who chose former Senator Bob Kerrey to recognize his role in making this historic project happen.

### SIGNIFICANCE

- The *longest* pedestrian bridge to link two states
- Symbolizes unity between Nebraska and Iowa as well as Omaha and Council Bluffs
- The bridge is curved, symbolic of the meandering Missouri River
- The Council Bluffs side landing provides access to Playland Park
- The Omaha side landing provides access to a Bridge Plaza featuring River Critters playground equipment, "fiber-wave" sculptures, 26 dancing water jets and a small amphitheater
- The bridge is as much a journey as it is a destination, with heightened visual interest created by a curving pathway and ever- changing vistas for users to experience
- With 150 miles of trail on each side of the river, the bridge improves bicycle and pedestrian options

### **For information on events that involve the bridge please contact:**

Council Bluffs Parks, Recreation and Public Property (712) 328-4650  
Omaha Parks, Recreation and Public Property (402) 444-5900