Ceremony will open I-210 bridge

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The South Lake Charles bypass bridge over Prien Lake on Interstate 210 will be opened Friday.

L. D. McCorquodale, local district highway engineer, said the dedication ceremonies of the $13-million bridge would begin at 2 p.m. with Arsene Stewart, director of the Louisiana Department of Highways, as principal speaker.

The dedication will be held at the center of the 8,700-foot structure with Mrs. Mary Morgan Stewart, mother of the director, cutting the ribbon to open the bridge to traffic, McCorquodale said.

T. W. Price, chairman of the Department of Highways Board, will act as master of ceremonies.

Also scheduled to speak during the ceremonies are Mayor Alfred Roberts; J. W. "Bill" Rosseff, president of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and Israel Lafleur, city councilman.

McCorquodale said the public was invited to attend the ceremonies and that area legislators, city and parish officials and labor and industry representatives would be invited as special guests.

The bridge will be open to traffic immediately following the ceremonies, McCorquodale said.

Begun in 1960, the bridge will connect the Prien Lake Road-Lake Street Intersection in Lake Charles with Interstate 10 south of Maplewood.

The bottom part of the bridge will be 143 feet above water level in the center of the structure with the road level 157 feet, six inches above the water.

A 400-foot-wide channel clearance between fenders makes the bridge one of the most usable in the Gulf Coast for navigation of tankers and cargo vessels.

The Rev. T. V. Owens, pastor of the Boulevard Baptist Church, will give the invocation and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Irving DeBlanc of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church will give the benediction, McCorquodale said.