

# U.S. 85 Expressway Construction Progress Report

Two major construction projects continue forward along U.S. 85 on the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway:

- U.S. 85 Four-lane Expansion - RP 120.3 North to Long X Bridge (Park Construction)
- U.S. 85 Four-lane Expansion - RP 120.3 to ND 200 (Knife River Corporation)

**Report Date: June 2026**



*Roadway grading and future lane preparation along the U.S. 85 corridor.*

# U.S. 85 Four-lane Expansion - RP 120.3 North to Long X Bridge



## Project Snapshot

<b>Project Focus</b>	5.5-mile U.S. 85 four-lane divided highway expansion from reference point 120.3 north to the Long X Bridge in McKenzie County.
<b>Contractor</b>	Park Construction Company.
<b>Project Delivery / Award</b>	Approximately \$83.8 million.
<b>Status</b>	Under construction; active during the 2026 and 2027 construction seasons.
<b>Strategic Value</b>	Extends four-lane infrastructure south from Watford City and supports long-term freight, energy, agriculture, tourism, and regional mobility goals.
<b>Schedule</b>	Construction started in April 2026. Anticipated substantial completion is November 2027, with final completion scheduled for October 14, 2028.

## Executive Summary

The U.S. 85 Expressway segment from RP 120.3 north to the Long X Bridge has moved from planning into visible construction. Work is focused on building a four-lane divided highway through the Little Missouri Breaks, one of the most complex portions of the corridor. Heavy grading is underway, the box culvert has been set, and preparation is advancing for base course placement and future asphalt paving. The project is expected to move more than three million cubic yards of material and includes grading, paving, culverts, retaining wall work, landslide repairs, wildlife crossing elements, scenic overlooks, signing, and pavement markings.

## Leadership Considerations

- Primary risks include terrain complexity, slope stability, erosion control, and weather exposure.
- Execution focus should remain on grading productivity, geotechnical performance, safe traffic operations, and coordination of specialized features.
- The project is now in visible construction, and continued oversight will be important to keep the segment on pace for substantial completion in late 2027 and final completion on October 14, 2028.

**Provided by Park Construction Co.**

<https://youtube.com/shorts/tX6UeR5l4ro?si=ZZ6DL3scWPKBSJsD>



Transforming Highway 85 in Western North

## U.S. 85 Four-lane Expansion - RP 120.3 to ND 200



\$61.7 million contract to Strata Corporation for a 12.5-mile segment extending south from Mile Point 120.3 to ND Highway 200;

### Current Construction Status

- Stockpiling has begun for asphalt aggregate at the temporary asphalt plant laydown yard near mile marker 135. Approximately 70,000 tons of asphalt aggregate will be required for upcoming paving activities.
- Beginning June 8, crews are scheduled to begin placing Class 5 road base on future roadway sections. More than 250,000 tons of Class 5 road base are expected to be placed in preparation for paving.
- The box culvert has been set, marking a visible milestone for drainage and structure work on the corridor. Asphalt paving is currently anticipated to begin on August 17, subject to weather, production, and field conditions.

### Expected Mass Excavation Equipment

19 scrapers, 5 dozers, 3 blades, 3 water wagons, 2 water trucks, 3 sheep's foot compactors, and 3 tractors with discs are expected to support mass excavation activities during the three-week look-ahead period.

### Construction Photo Log

Photos document current grading, drainage, box culvert, and roadway preparation activities on the TH85 / U.S. 85 expansion segment.



Roadway grading and future lane preparation.



Drainage crossing preparation and erosion control.



Box culvert sections placed at drainage crossing.



Crane operations setting culvert components.



Completed box culvert installation with crews on site.



Subgrade and shoulder preparation along existing highway.



Roadway widening and embankment preparation.



Prepared future roadway section.



Grading and embankment work in open terrain.



Corridor grading and roadbed preparation.