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## Arias visits three new bridges on the Costanera Sur

**By the A.M. Costa Rica staff**

President Óscar Arias Sánchez and transportation officials inspected new bridges on the Costanera Sur Tuesday.

In addition, the visitors saw the grading work that will allow workers to put asphalt on 42 kms (26 miles) of the gravel highway from Quepos to Baru. That's a \$34 million job.

The new bridges are over the Río Portalón, a 90-meter (295-foot) span, the Río Paquita, some 113 meters (371 feet), and the Río Matapalo, a 54-meter (177-foot) span.

The government also has two projects being constructed, a 171-meter (561-foot) span at Parrita and a 198-meter (650-foot) span at Naranjo. Two more bridges, one at Hatillo Nuevo of some 120 meters (394 feet) and one at Hatillo Viejo of 90 meters (295 feet) was scheduled to open in May. In addition, transport officials are accepting bids on a widening of a bridge over the Río Savegre.

The Costanera, which will be paved from Quepos to north of Dominical will be a two-lane scenic route that will provide quicker access to the southern zone. Traffic will not have to pass through San José and Cartago to go from north to south or south to north