



INFORMATION RELEASE

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NR 16-339
October 1, 2016

AHTD Announces Official Countdown Clock for U.S. Highway 70 (Broadway) Bridge Closure

PULASKI COUNTY (10-1) – An official countdown clock was launched this morning as part of an effort to keep the public informed about the U.S. Highway 70 (Broadway) Bridge closure, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Found on the Department’s web site www.arkansashighways.com, the countdown clock represents official time being kept by the AHTD as Kansas City-based Massman Construction begins a 180-day period the company included as part of its \$98.4 million bid to replace the Broadway Bridge.

In these 180 days, Massman must remove the old bridge, construct the new bridge and open it to traffic. The term “open to traffic” does not mean the project is complete. It is estimated the contractor will require an additional two months to bring the project to completion; however motorists will be able to use the new bridge once it opens to traffic.

Although Massman began working immediately after the closing ceremony on Wednesday, September 28th, the actual time charged for the 180 days didn’t begin until this morning, October 1st at 12:00 a.m. Central Time. The construction contract includes an incentive/disincentive clause of \$80,000 per day. If Massman opens the new bridge to traffic before the 180 days expires, the company will earn an incentive of \$80,000 per day up to a maximum 50 days. If the contractor fails to open the new bridge to traffic within the 180 days, Massman will be charged \$80,000 per day with no limit on the number of days that amount can be assessed.

At this time, the official estimated expiration of the 180-day closure is Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time. As is the case in any AHTD construction project, at the Department’s discretion, additional time may be allowed for the bridge closure in the case of extreme unforeseen circumstances such as an archeological or historical find not previously documented before construction began.