



INFORMATION RELEASE

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IMPLOSION TO BRING DOWN U.S. HIGHWAY 70 (BROADWAY) BRIDGE NAVIGATION SPAN

PULASKI COUNTY (10-10) – Demolition of the U.S. Highway 70 (Broadway) Bridge over the Arkansas River has reached a point where the navigation span will be brought down using explosives, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

On Tuesday, October 11th at approximately 10:00 a.m., AHTD Director Scott Bennett will “push the button” to ignite cutting charges strategically placed on the structure. The resulting detonation will sever steel in areas that will cause a controlled collapse of the arch. Massman Construction Co. will have 24-hours to remove debris from the McClellan-Kerr navigation channel.

While this event is an unusual and very interesting occurrence, a 1,500-foot clear zone will be established to ensure safety. Members of the public that wish to watch the demolition process are encouraged to do so from the banks of the Arkansas River as well as the Pulaski County Junction Bridge (pedestrian bridge).

The Main Street Bridge will remain open to traffic; however the sidewalk on the west side of the bridge will be closed and access will be restricted to credentialed media and local officials only. Arkansas Highway Police will be on-hand to regulate access to the sidewalk as well as to ensure traffic continues to move across the bridge.

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Detonation of the navigation span is one of four planned events that will use explosives. The other events – yet to be scheduled – will demolish the concrete arches on the north side of the structure as well as the foundations supporting the arches.

Kansas City-based Massman Construction Co. is 10 days into its 180-day closure period during which the company 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 Broadway Bridge closing ceremony Wednesday, September 28th (see our video recap of the event here: <https://vimeo.com/AHTD/BroadwayDecommission>), the actual time charged for the 180 days didn't begin until 12:00 a.m. Saturday, October 1st Central Time. The AHTD has launched an official countdown clock on its website www.arkansahighways.com as part of an effort to keep the public informed during this stage of construction. 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.

The 180-day closure period was included in Massman's \$98.4 million bid to replace the Broadway Bridge. 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 of 50 days. If the 180 days is exceeded, Massman will be charged \$80,000 per day with no limit on the number of days that amount can be assessed.