



INFORMATION RELEASE

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NR 16-403
November 20, 2016

U.S. HIGHWAY 70 (BROADWAY) BRIDGE WORK CONTINUES

Blasting event, arch float to kick-off Thanksgiving Week

PULASKI COUNTY (11-20) – As work continues on the Arkansas River to replace the U.S. Highway 70 (Broadway) Bridge, contractor Massman Construction Co. has advised the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) that two significant events will occur in the days leading into the Thanksgiving holiday, according to agency officials.

On **Monday, November 21**, one of the remaining two footings that supported the steel navigation arch will be detonated. At approximately 4:00 p.m., the demolition contractor will detonate explosives drilled into the northernmost concrete footing. This footing has been reduced in height to approximately one-foot above river stage, drilled to a depth of 25 feet, and packed with explosives designed to break apart the structure for easy removal of debris from the navigation channel.

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System will be closed beginning at 3:30 p.m. and is anticipated to reopen at approximately 5:30 p.m. Since this is an underwater detonation, it is not likely to be a spectacular event; however, members of the public that wish to watch the demolition process are encouraged to do so from the banks of the Little Rock side of the Arkansas River.

On **Tuesday, November 22**, the remaining arch will be floated into place. The process will begin after 8:00 a.m. and take several hours to complete. The river will be closed to traffic to reduce the potential for disturbing the process. The work is weather-dependent and if high-winds associated with an approaching weather system later in the day occur, the work will be rescheduled.

By Thanksgiving, Kansas City-based Massman Construction will be 55 days into the 180-day period the company included as part of its \$98.4 million bid to replace the Broadway Bridge. The new structure must be open to traffic by Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time.