

Publication:Chattanooga Times Free Press; **Date:**Feb 2, 2007; **Section:**Metro/Region; **Page Number:**13

Riverfront Parkway section reopens today

Staff Report

The section of Riverfront Parkway that has been closed as part of the Chief John Ross (Market Street) Bridge rehabilitation project will reopen before 6 p.m. today, according to officials with the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

"We realize Riverfront Parkway is a vital artery for downtown businesses," TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely said in a Thursday news release. "We appreciate everyone's patience throughout this closure."

Closing the road from the Tennessee Aquarium to the Hunter Museum of American Art was necessary to ensure public safety, said Jerry Britton of Mountain States Contractors.

"To provide a safe environment for street and pedestrian passage underneath the Market Street Bridge, that section of Riverfront Parkway had to be closed," he said.

The bridge project began Sept. 18, 2005, and will be completed this September, officials said. Work above the section of Riverfront Parkway that is reopening today began on Sept. 5, 2006, officials said.

"We are very pleased to have this portion of the project completed early," said Bob Brown, TDOT regional director.

The steps and walkway in the area of The Passage will remain closed to pedestrian traffic until handrails at the bridge's south approach have been finished, officials said.

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