



MARKET STREET BRIDGE AT A GLANCE

Market Street Bridge is Tennessee's only drawbridge, as well as being one of only a handful in the United States. Although most people know it as the Market Street Bridge, its official name is the Chief John Ross Bridge in honor of the Cherokee chief who established Ross's Landing.

Architectural Treasure

- Market Street Bridge is a double-leaf bascule span bridge, a drawbridge with counterweights that balance the spans – or leaves – throughout the entire upward swing to provide clearance for boat traffic. “Bascule” is a French term meaning seesaw.
- It is a rolling-lift bascule bridge, meaning the spans roll or rock to rise like a rocking chair on a track. The two, huge concrete weights on each end of the bascule allow the bridge to open in the middle.
- Two small 50-horsepower electric motors get the works started, and the counter-weights pull the spans up the rest of the way. It takes only two minutes to raise the two sides to a 45-degree angle.

The Renovation

- The renovation began Sept. 18, 2005, and the bridge is 90 years old. (The Walnut Street Bridge is 116 years old; Olgiati Bridge is 48; Veteran's Bridge is 23.)
- The renovation includes replacement and repair of the deteriorating surface, arch spans, entire north approach, roadway, handrails, obelisks, interior columns, steel bascule span structure, motors to operate the bascule span and mechanical operating equipment.
- The number of traffic lanes and lane widths on the renovated bridge are the same, and travelers will enjoy sidewalks measuring three feet wider on either side of the thoroughfare making walking safe and easy.
- The riverbed is limestone bedrock, and is uneven with numerous seams and cracks filled with soft yellow clay sediment filling in the gaps.
- The bridge is owned by the State of Tennessee.
- Restoring the bridge is Mountain States Contractors, Durham, NC.

By the Numbers

- The bridge's structural renovation cost -- approximately \$13,060,500.
- Dimensions:
 - Main span length – 310 ft.; Total length – 2,000 ft.
 - Deck width – (curb to curb) 36 ft.
 - Vertical clearance – (bascule truss to roadway) 16.4 ft.

What's in the bridge

- 202,300 man hours
- 86,382.04 lbs of steel bar reinforcement
- 204,904.19 lbs of Epoxy Coated steel bar reinforcement
- 479,928.91 lbs of reinforcing steel (repairs)
- 1,359.67 cubic yards of Class A Concrete
- 900.25 cubic yards of Class D Concrete

- 3,169.36 cubic yards of Class D Concrete (overlay)
- 1,489.87 cubic yards of Class S concrete
- 1,670.34 linear feet of pre-stressed concrete box beams
- 10,656.65 square feet of concrete repairs
- 1,789.10 cubic feet of concrete repairs
- 2,265.20 linear feet of epoxy injection crack repairs
- 7.035 cubic yards of underwater concrete repair

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