



Market Street Bridge expected to open early: Aug. 5, 2007

Work is has progressed extremely well on the Market Street Bridge -- so well, in fact, that it's expected to open 57 earlier than anticipated.

The bridge is due to be completed and reopened to traffic Aug. 5 when a CARTA electric bus will be the first vehicle to drive from the south side (Aquarium side) to the north side (Frazier Ave).

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.) Restoring the bridge included maintaining architectural elements associated with the historical significance, including light fixtures, handrails, arch fascia detail, obelisks (shafts of stone with pyramid on top) and an operator's house.

"Of all the bridges we've built or restored, the Market Street Bridge is a once-in-a-lifetime project," said Jerry Britton, professional engineer for Mountain States Contractors, which renovated the bridge for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. "The bridge's architectural significance and beauty, along with the rarity of bascule bridges, make it a true treasure – not just for Chattanooga – but in comparison to all American bridges."

"We are very pleased with the results of the renovation project," stated Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Regional Director Bob Brown. "The newly improved bridge should last for many years to come, and the Market Street Bridge can once again take its place as one of Chattanooga's most recognized landmarks."

- The number of traffic lanes and lane widths on the renovated bridge are the same, and travelers will now enjoy sidewalks measuring three feet wider on either side of the thoroughfare making walking safe and easy.
- The bridge's structural renovation cost approximately \$13,060,500.
- The original bridge cost \$1 million to build – double the projected cost.
- The riverbed is limestone bedrock, and is uneven with numerous seams and cracks filled with soft yellow clay sediment filling in the gaps.
- The renovation included replacement or 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 bridge is owned by the State of Tennessee.
- The bridge was restored by Mountain States Contractors, Durham, NC.
- Consulting firms include

- Parsons Transportation Group – responsible for redesigning the bridge and ensuring it’s structurally sound, as well as project manager and inspector.
 - KSWARE – provided a concrete technician.
 - Volkert – provided an inspector and office technician
- Dimensions:
 - Main span length – 310 ft.
 - Total length – 2,000 ft.
 - Deck width – (curb to curb) 36 ft.
 - Vertical clearance – (basculer truss to roadway) 16.4 ft.

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