



INFORMATION RELEASE

Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas
Telephone (501) 569-2227

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
ArkansasHighways.com
Twitter: @AHTD

Contact:
Danny Straessle/Krista Sides

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U.S. Highway 70 (Broadway) Bridge Closure Date Set

Arkansas River crossing estimated to be out of service for up to six months

PULASKI COUNTY (8-25) – In a much anticipated announcement today, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department set Wednesday, September 28, 2016 as the last operational service day of the 93-year-old U.S. Highway 70 bridge that crosses the Arkansas River.

At 10:00 a.m. on this day, the structure will be closed to traffic for the last time since it opened on Christmas Day 1922. The closure will extend from the intersection of U.S. Highway 70 and West Broadway Street in North Little Rock (in front of the baseball stadium) to the intersection with West Markham Street in Little Rock. See attached map with details of the closure and prescribed alternate routes.

Although several alternate route options exist, the State Highway 5 (Main Street) bridge is the official alternate route across the river. The Department's Construction and Travel Information site, www.IDriveArkansas.com, displays available alternate routes as well as live traffic information on those routes. Motorists are encouraged to select an alternate route that works best for their individual commutes and to start using these before the bridge actually closes.

Once the existing bridge is closed, the contract calls for the new bridge to be opened to traffic within six months. This timeframe was provided by the contractor in its bid on the project. An earlier opening will earn the contractor an incentive of \$80,000 per day. Conversely, a longer closure would cost the contractor an equal daily disincentive.

During the closure, the demolition of the existing structure will be accomplished in stages. Some of the early demolition work will occur mechanically. There will be at least three phases that will use cutting charges and other explosives to remove the existing concrete arches, the steel arch, and the existing footings. Announcements of the dates for the demolition phasing that will use "blasting" will be forthcoming.

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In September 2014, Kansas City, Missouri-based Massman Construction Company was awarded a \$98.4 million contract to replace the U.S. Highway 70 Bridge over the Arkansas River. At the time it was the single largest contract ever awarded by the Department.

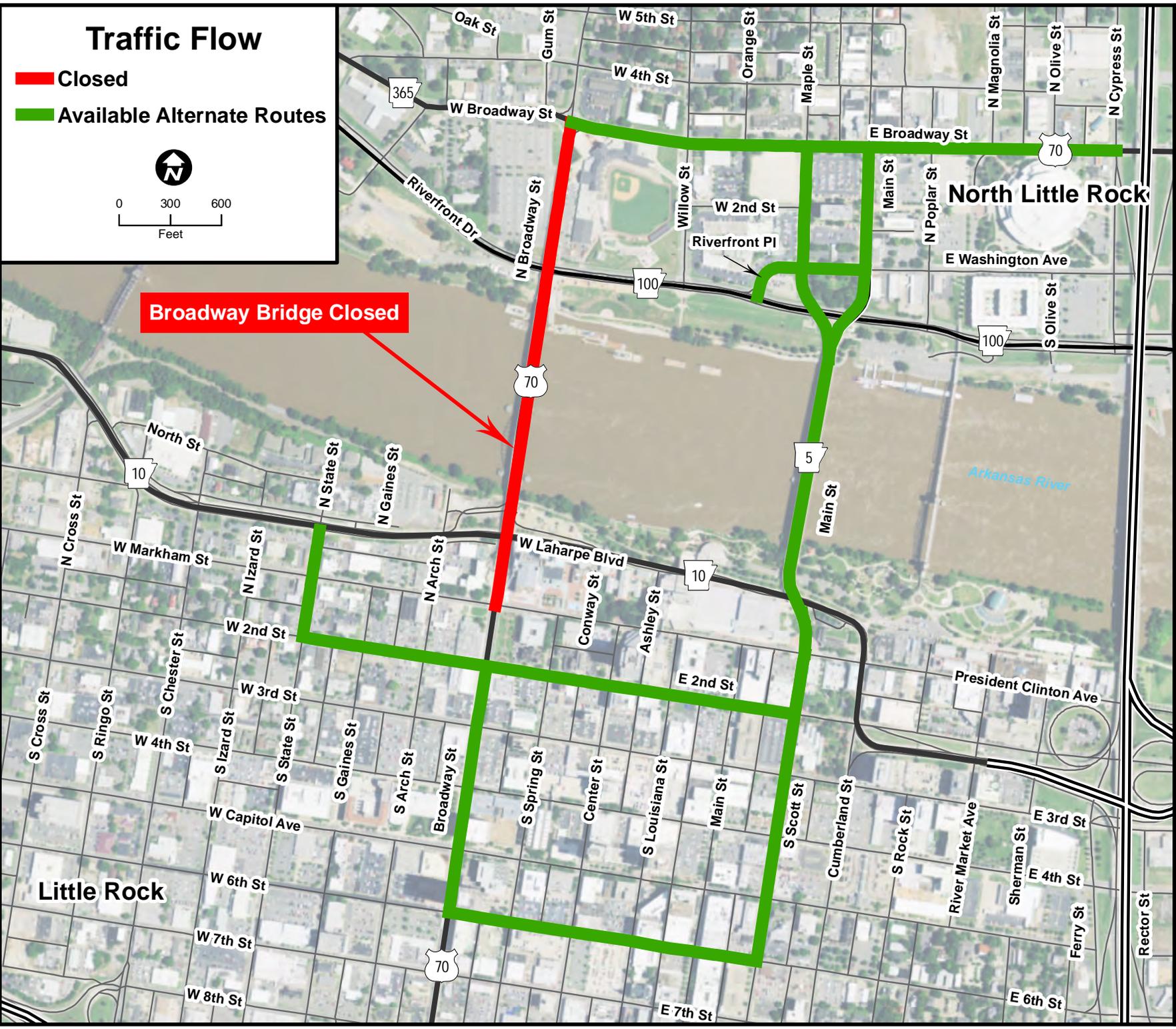
Although the original structure opened to traffic in late December 1922, it wasn't until the spring of 1923 that the entire project was completed at a cost of \$971,000. In 1972 the bridge was modified by removing two spans on the south side to make way for a single, wider navigation span when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The single, silver-colored arch that has become an iconic part of the city of Little Rock's skyline was paid for by the Corps of Engineers at an approximate cost of \$2.5 million.

U.S. Highway 70 Arkansas River Bridge Detours

Pulaski County

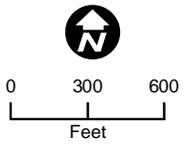


TP&P: GIS: 8/25/2016



Traffic Flow

- █ Closed
- █ Available Alternate Routes



Broadway Bridge Closed