



CLARK MEMORIAL BRIDGE PAINTING PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the scope of this project?

Work on the Clark Memorial Bridge includes cleaning and painting of all the steel members on the bridge. This includes all of the steel beams underneath the bridge not visible to the motoring public. The old paint on the bridge is removed via a blast cleaning process prior to painting the steel using a three-coat system. Crews began work on the Indiana end of the bridge in February 2018 and are progressing south to Kentucky.

Why is the work necessary?

Built in 1929, painting and cleaning is part of a healthy maintenance cycle to preserve the steel and extend the useful life of the bridge.

How long will the project take to complete?

This project will span two construction seasons and is scheduled for completion in November of 2019. There will be periods when lanes are open to traffic during the winter months once construction activity pauses.

What is the cost of this project?

A \$27.9 million contract was awarded for this project.

How was the new paint color chosen for the bridge?

The paint color for the bridge was chosen in 2010 by the Downtown Development Corporation (DDC) as part of its overall plan for revitalizing Second Street, which runs to the Clark Memorial Bridge. The DDC received a Transportation Enhancement grant for the Second Street project. The DDC selected the color from the Federal Highway Administration's approved bridge paint colors. In accordance with a Louisville Metro ordinance for the Waterfront Development Overlay district, the Waterfront Development Corporation approved the paint choice as well.

How is traffic being impacted by this work?

The Clark Memorial Bridge will be closed nightly beginning Sunday, September 9. The bridge will close at 8 p.m. each night and reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning.

During daytime hours, traffic on the Clark Memorial Bridge is reduced to one lane in each direction. The outside lanes of the roadway are closed to accommodate cleaning and painting equipment.

KYTC is coordinating with the KFC YUM! Center to keep the Clark Memorial Bridge open following select University of Louisville men's basketball games and events in an effort to reduce traffic impacts. The northbound lane of the bridge will remain open to expedite the flow

of traffic after games end. That lane will close once the majority of the traffic has exited the area surrounding the KFC YUM! Center.

Why is the bridge being closed at night?

There have been 38 crashes in the work zone since February 2018 with nearly a third categorized as moderate to severe. KYTC executed a series of steps over the last five months to improve safety in the work zone. These efforts included enhanced notification signs, the addition of electronic message boards, modifying traffic signals, securing the presence of law enforcement officer in the work zone, and installing rumble strips. The number of crashes continued to increase despite these safety measures. Closing the bridge nightly mitigates risks associated with higher evening travel speeds- due to lower traffic volumes compared to daytime hours - and reduced visibility.

Why can't lane barriers be used to separate traffic from the construction workers and equipment?

KYTC investigated the use of various types of lane barriers on the bridge, including concrete, metal and water filled barriers, but this option could not be pursued due to the strain the additional weight would put on the bridge's load bearing capacity.

Will closing the bridge get the project to be completed ahead of schedule?

Due to the amount of cleaning and painting of the steel, the timeline will not change once the overnight closures are implemented. Crews plan to work on the steel members underneath the bridge deck during the day when traffic volumes are heavier and work on the overhead steel truss will be done at night.

What alternate routes can motorists use to cross the Ohio River?

There are three alternate bridges to cross the Ohio River between downtown Louisville, Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Interstate 64 crosses the Ohio River via the Sherman Minton Bridge. Interstate 65 North traffic crosses the river via the Lincoln Bridge and Interstate 65 South traffic crosses the river via the Kennedy Bridge.

Will the sidewalks on the bridge remain open for pedestrians?

Both sidewalks on the bridge are closed to pedestrians due to safety hazards associated with construction equipment and painting containment tarps placed on portions of the sidewalks.

Do bicyclists have access to the bridge?

Outside lanes on the bridge are closed during construction thereby eliminating safe access to bicyclists.

Will tolls be waived on the tolled bridges connecting Southern Indiana and Louisville during the Clark Memorial Bridge project?

Tolls are not waived for planned closures on bridges adjacent to or approaching a tolled bridge. The Sherman Minton Bridge is a non-tolled bridge option.