James Robertson Parkway FAQs

What changes will be made to the James Robertson Parkway/Victory Memorial Bridge besides lowering it?

The project will enhance safety and connectivity through the addition of signalized intersections, upgraded utilities, and expanded roadway capacity. Widening the roadway from five to seven lanes will help accommodate future growth while laying the foundation for development opportunities and long-term economic investment along the corridor.

Why does the bridge need to be closed from Summer 2027 to Summer 2029?

While a full closure of James Robertson Parkway will significantly impact motorists, this closure timeline provides the greatest opportunity to deliver long-term value by enabling smart urban development and streetscape activation. A long-term closure is necessary for several reasons:

- In addition to lowering the bridge approach, all utilities must be relocated beneath the roadway. While relocating utilities underground will necessitate a longer closure period during construction, it reduces future utility conflicts along the edge of the roadway and sidewalks, providing greater flexibility for anticipated development and infrastructure improvements.
- This long-term closure also supports the implementation of an established detour network, which gives greater certainty to motorists and pedestrians while reducing recurring disruptions and improving overall mobility throughout the construction period.

Overall, safety for both workers and the traveling public is enhanced by maintaining a secure, enclosed construction zone throughout the project.

Why isn't a detailed schedule available right now?

A fully detailed construction schedule is not available at this time because this project is being delivered using a Progressive Design-Build (PDB) approach, which allows design and construction activities to overlap. As a result, many project details are still being evaluated. Final plans are expected in Spring 2027.

This collaborative approach helps the project team identify the most effective construction methods, better manage risks and minimize impacts to the traveling public.

As design advances and construction plans are finalized, TDOT, Metro Nashville and project partners will share key milestones, anticipated traffic impacts and schedule updates with the public.

Why are you releasing information now, when the closure doesn't begin until Summer 2027?

While the bridge's full closure won't occur until Summer 2027, it is important that the community has ample time to prepare. That may mean trying alternative routes, arranging carpools or adjusting schedules.

I am worried about my commute; how will this impact me?

We recognize that a long-term closure can affect daily travel routines. To help minimize disruptions, TDOT has worked closely with Metro Nashville and other project partners to plan for traffic impacts, maintain access throughout the corridor and identify alternative routes for residents, commuters, and visitors. Check the latest alternative routes map on the project website.

Throughout construction, TDOT will coordinate with the Traffic Management Center (TMC) to keep Tennesseans informed.

What about bus routes?

TDOT is coordinating closely with Metro Nashville to implement any necessary bus route adjustments during the closure. While some routes may be modified to accommodate traffic changes and alternative routes, maintaining reliable transit access remains a priority. Any changes to bus routes, stops or schedules will be communicated in advance through WeGo. Transit riders are encouraged to check for service updates and plan ahead.

Will local businesses and destinations remain accessible during construction?

Yes. Maintaining access to local businesses throughout construction is a priority. While travel patterns may change and some routes may require alternate routes, the project team is working closely with Metro Nashville, local stakeholders and agency partners to maintain access throughout the closure period. Motorists, pedestrians and cyclists should follow posted signage and plan ahead when traveling through the area.

How will emergency vehicles be accommodated during the closure?

The project team is coordinating closely with emergency response agencies to implement traffic management plans and alternative routes that maintain reliable emergency access and support safe, efficient response times throughout the closure period.

How will access to Nissan Stadium and downtown events be managed?
Project partners are coordinating closely to minimize impacts during events. Traffic management strategies, enhanced signage and proactive public outreach will help event attendees plan ahead and navigate the area efficiently. In addition, the project team is working with stakeholders to identify opportunities to mitigate parking challenges where possible.

Will the reversible lanes on JRP be retained when the project is complete?
The reversible lane on Victory Memorial Bridge will remain operational once complete.

Will the courthouse parking garage be closed during construction?
The project team does not expect the courthouse parking garage to close during construction.

How is this project funded?
This project is funded through a partnership between Metro Nashville and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The final cost of the project will be identified as design advances and construction plans are finalized.