



NEWS RELEASE

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Joe B. Jackson Parkway Extension opens to traffic ***New 3-lane Parkway extension connects U-S 231 with I-24***

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – The Joe B. Jackson Parkway Extension Project is complete and opened to all traffic today, May 27, 2015, at 11 a.m. The Parkway opening was delayed earlier this year to give the contractor, Highways Inc. of Brentwood, time to increase the thickness of pavement on a 200 foot section of the \$5 million bridge in order to pass inspection. Concrete repairs, including curing time, took nearly two months. Concrete repairs were paid by the contractor.

The Joe B. Jackson Parkway Project connects U-S 231 South (South Church Street) with I-24 at Joe B. Jackson Parkway. It includes a 1,300 foot bridge over CSX Railroad lines and Stones River before connecting with Stevens Bend Subdivision and Elam Road. The major construction project began April 29, 2013, and finished slightly behind schedule due to thickness repairs.

“We’re been working on this project about two years,” said City Engineer Chris Griffith. “We are delighted to see traffic flowing on this roadway to help relieve traffic on Church Street/Hwy 231.”

The new expanded roadway will benefit commuter and school bus traffic in the area by allowing a direct connection to I-24 as opposed to using Church Street. This new access to a major interstate should relieve traffic congestion, particularly in the busy cloverleaf area of Church Street and I-24.

Widening the old County Farm Road from a two-lane country road to a three-lane road with new utilities and sidewalks on both sides has been an inconvenience for neighbors who reside along the stretch of road. Atmos Energy installed new utility lines and the Consolidated Utility District installed new water lines.

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“We appreciate the patience of those who have lived with all the construction activity, including traffic interruptions, utility replacement, sidewalk additions and other necessary work to see this project through to fruition,” added Griffith. “Getting in and out of their homes during this construction phase has not been without difficulty.”

The \$11 million Joe B. Jackson Parkway Extension Project included \$2 million in initial Local Interstate Connector (LIC) project funding from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The City of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County combined to fund the remaining approximately \$9 million in what is believed to be the largest joint project in size and cost between the two governments. The Parkway Extension is the single biggest construction project completed during Griffith’s time as City Engineer and perhaps the largest-ever for the City.

“It has the longest bridge in Rutherford County spanning 1,300 feet over both the CSX Railroad line and Stones River, as well as other utilities,” said Griffith. “Making it one of the largest projects that TDOT has allowed a municipal or county government to manage themselves.”

Three full-time City of Murfreesboro inspectors were assigned to the Joe B. Jackson Parkway Project over the nearly two year period. Two consultants also assisted City of Murfreesboro engineers with testing throughout the project.

For City News online, visit www.Murfreesborotn.gov.

Photo attached captions:

1. *Joe B. Jackson Parkway 1.jpeg.*
2. *Joe B. Jackson Parkway 2.jpeg.*

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