A Bridge Not Far: Long Street Bridge & Cultural Wall Set to Open This Fall

When the Long Street Bridge and Cultural Wall is fully open for pedestrians and motorists sometime late this fall, what you will see then is the result of detailed planning and work being done now. The north side traffic lanes of the bridge opened last month so work could proceed on demolishing and rebuilding the south half.

Work on the 60-panel Cultural Wall that documents the history and prominent citizens of the historic King Lincoln and Discovery Districts is already well underway, although still behind the scenes.

A rendering of what the landscape will look like on the south side of the Long Street bridge.

Artists Kojo Kamau and Larry Winston Collins are designing high-resolution artwork for each of the resin panels, which will be internally lit so they will "glow" and be visible to all who walk, bike or drive by at night. The panels will be manufactured by the Utah based 3form company.
But the design and the actual manufacturing of the panels has to be precise, right down to where holes are placed for the fasteners that will attach the panels to the bridge structure to form the Cultural Wall to ensure they don't conflict with the graphics. The fasteners are needed to help the wall withstand high winds and more typical Ohio weather.

A rendering of the Long Street bridge looking west towards downtown Columbus.

The Cultural Wall will help shield the view of the new I-71 lanes running beneath the bridge. The general design intent is to create a more inviting and comfortable crossing and connection between Downtown and the King-Lincoln District, especially for people biking or walking.

In order to soften the typical cold and barren feel of concrete bridges, the new design adds planters along the length of both the Long and Spring Street bridges. Street trees are included, which create a stronger visual connection between neighborhoods both east and west of I-71. The bridge also has metal trellis-like features near each corner to add character and visual interest. These help bring architectural interest along the bridges' expansive street front.
Glad You Asked!

A question from one of our Facebook fans asked when the Broad Street entrance ramp would be open. Here’s your answer: **The end of this year.**

Broad Street will be able to access I-71 north. I-71 south will also be able to exit at Broad St. There will be no access to I-670 from Broad St. Instead you will use Spring St or Cleveland Ave. To get to I-670 west, you will use Jack Gibbs Blvd.

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Get the 4-1-1 on Traffic:

**Thursday Night, March 14 and Friday Night, March 15:**

- Starting at 8 p.m., the ramp from I-670 west to I-71 south will be closed. Traffic will be detoured to State Route 315 south to I-71 south.
- Starting at 9 p.m., I-71 north will be reduced to one lane. Traffic will be restricted to one lane on I-71 south and the ramp from 11th Ave to I-71 south will close.
- At 10 p.m., I-71 south traffic will be detoured to I-670 west. Traffic forced to I-670 west will be detoured to State Route 315 south to I-71 south.
- All ramps and lanes will be re-opened by 5 a.m. each morning.

**Monday Night, March 18 and Tuesday Night, March 19:**

- Starting at 8 p.m., Jack Gibbs Blvd. will be closed under I-71. Traffic will be detoured to Spring and Long streets.
- Starting at 8 p.m., the ramp from I-670 west to I-71 south will be closed. Traffic will be detoured to State Route 315 south to I-71 south.
- Starting at 9 p.m., I-71 will be reduced to one lane and the ramp from 11th Ave to I-71 south will close.
- At 10 p.m., I-71 south traffic will be detoured to I-670 west and then be detoured to State Route 315 south to I-71 south.
- All ramps and lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. each morning.

**Monday Night, March 18 and Tuesday Night, March 19:**

- Starting at 9 p.m., I-71 north will be reduced to one lane from Spring St. to Jack Gibbs Blvd.
- All lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. each morning.

**Wed Night, March 20 through Friday Night, March 22:**

- Starting at 8:00 p.m., Jack Gibbs Blvd. will be closed under I-71. Traffic will be detoured to Spring and Long streets
- Jack Gibbs Blvd. will be reopened by 5 a.m. each morning.

Watch Facebook, Twitter and the I-71/670 website for updates.
All work is weather dependent and subject to change. Up-to-date traffic and construction information, 24-hours a day, can be found at odot71670.org. Follow us on Twitter. Find us on Facebook.

Connect with Columbus Crossroads

Have a question or a suggestion? We'd like to hear from you. Contact Nancy Burton at Nancy.Burton@dot.state.oh.us or 740-833-8063.

www.facebook.com/odot71670
www.twitter.com/odot71670

All work is weather dependent, and can be cancelled without prior notification.

Forward email

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