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New Demonbreun Viaduct to Debut on October 25

*Mayor and TDOT cut ribbon, businesses host public celebration marking
much-anticipated completion of Nashville's newest landmark*

A new Demonbreun Street Viaduct will officially open next week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a free block party hosted by a coalition of Gulch-area businesses eager to celebrate being re-connected to each other and the downtown area.

Grand-opening festivities will take place in the late afternoon on Wednesday, October 25, and motorists can expect to begin driving over the new Viaduct later that evening.

“With the opening of this Demonbreun Street Viaduct we reunite key areas of our city with another beautiful bridge,” said Mayor Bill Purcell.

The new \$8.3 million viaduct, which spans The Gulch and CSX Railroad between 10th Avenue and 12th Avenue, includes stylized railroad motifs, lighting and other unique architectural features that pay tribute to the city’s historic links to the railroad and music industries. It will open five months ahead of schedule, the result of an unprecedented partnership between local and state governments, according to Public Works Director Billy Lynch.

“Metro’s working partnership with the Tennessee Department of Transportation was very successful and allowed us to expedite every phase of this project,” Lynch said. “Thanks to the cooperation and fine work of TDOT’s contractor, Bell and Associates, Public Works has been able to restore vital transportation access for Nashville.”

“We are truly honored to be a part of this project,” said Keith Pyle, president and partner, Bell and Associates Construction. “Our crews have worked day and night to ensure the early completion of this major link between downtown Nashville and the thriving mid-town area.”

The original Demonbreun Street Viaduct, built in the early 1930s, was closed in 2004 and demolished a year later because of its age and extreme deterioration. At the time it closed, the viaduct was carrying an average of 13,100 vehicles daily.

Besides restoring a key route for visitors and daily commuters, the new Demonbreun Viaduct reconnects Nashville’s Music Row and emerging SoBro neighborhoods. Businesses in the rapidly developing Gulch area are ready to celebrate the opening with the entire city.

“It’s hard to describe how excited we are about the new Viaduct, and we’re so proud of it, we wanted to do something special to celebrate its opening,” said Gayle Fuson, Chief Financial Officer of Bohan Marketing and Advertising, a tenant in the former Braid Electric Building located at the corner of 12th and Demonbreun Street.

Businesses on the 10th Avenue side of the viaduct will also be involved in the opening celebration, including the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, whose parking lot is at the corner of Demonbreun and 10th. October 25 is one of several “First Tennessee Free Wednesdays” at The Frist, and the gallery will remain open until 5:30 p.m. so the public can visit for free before attending the festivities.

A brass ensemble from the Nashville Symphony will be performing on the viaduct just prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The public is invited to begin gathering on the east side of the bridge (near Cummings Station and the Frist Center parking lot) at 5:15 p.m. Mayor Purcell, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely and several guests will cut the ribbon during a 5:40 p.m. ceremony staged near the center of the new viaduct.

The festivities continue with “Spanning The Gulch,” an event on the 12th Avenue side of the viaduct featuring a free concert by Lyric Street Music artist Trent Tomlinson. The concert and public events are scheduled to conclude at approximately 8 p.m., when Public Works will begin removing barricades and open the new viaduct to traffic.

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