



# Highway re-opens

Monday, May 12, 2008 | 1 comment(s)

State Highway 38 reopened at 9 Sunday night between Elkton and Drain.

Construction crews finished replacing the bridge at the east end of the Elk Creek Tunnel nine hours ahead of schedule. The highway originally was scheduled to re-open at 6 a.m. today.

The new bridge was built alongside the old one and finished this weekend through a process called "rapid replacement." That required crews to rip out the 78-year-old structure and slide the new bridge over into its place.

Employees of Texas-based Mammoet Inc. filled in the approaches and welded pre-made concrete slabs to the ends of the bridge prior to paving. They also will be using rapid replacement bridge building on the bridge on the west end of the tunnel sometime in August.

ODOT is replacing five bridges along state Highway 38 at an estimated cost of \$52 million. Work started in June 2007 and should be finished by December 2009.

## COMMENTS

**JUST AN OBSERVER** wrote on May 12, 2008 9:49 PM:

Drove over the new bridge today. It is a good one and keeps the same "38" style going while being wide and new. Good job!

Reprinted with permission from *The World*.