

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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INTERSTATE 40 LANE CLOSURE NEAR CACHE RIVER TO BE LIFTED FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL

LITTLE ROCK (12-20) – Officials with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) have announced that the current lane closure on Interstate 40 near the Cache River in Monroe County will be lifted during the holiday season.

A \$56.3 million project was awarded to Koss Construction Company of Topeka, Kansas, in September to rehabilitate the main travel lanes on approximately ten miles of Interstate 40, beginning at the Cache River and continuing ten miles to the west. That work excludes the White River Bridge. The work has required closing one lane in each direction during construction.

To allow for an expected increase in traffic during the holidays, the lane closures on the Interstate 40 project will be temporarily lifted. **All lanes (two lanes in each direction) will be open beginning on Thursday, December 22nd and continuing through Tuesday, January 3rd.**

Motorists should note that permanent lane closures will resume in January (one lane of travel in each direction). Those lane closures will remain in place until the project's estimated completion in mid 2013. Motorists planning to travel Interstate 40 in eastern Arkansas after the holidays are encouraged to plan ahead and consider using alternate routes. Possible routes include U.S. Highways 70 and 79 south of Interstate 40, and U.S. Highways 67 and 64 north of the Interstate.

As always, motorists are encouraged to exercise caution when traveling through work zones. The Christmas holidays are historically a busy time of the year for traveling, and motorists should take that into consideration when making travel plans.

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