

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
P. O. Box 2261 – Little Rock, Arkansas Telephone (501) 569-2227

**Contact:**  
**Randy Ort/Scott Munsell**

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### **Additional Big Rock Interchange Work Includes More Lane, Ramp Closures**

**LITTLE ROCK (11-14)** – As crews work to complete a variety of construction phases before the holiday shopping and travel season begins, motorists that travel the Big Rock Interchange work zone (I-430/I-630 in Little Rock) should be aware of additional lane and ramp closures in the coming days. Work will impact various areas of the construction zone at different times, lasting through Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. All work is weather permitting.

“Our goal is to have no additional lane closures and no changes in the traffic pattern through the Big Rock Interchange between Thanksgiving and the end of the year, to minimize any disruption to holiday travel,” said Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Director (AHTD) Scott Bennett. “But to do that, we need to get some work wrapped up. This should in no way discourage people from visiting the many shops, restaurants and other businesses located near the interchange, but we’re asking that they find alternate ways to reach those businesses that won’t involve traveling through the interchange while these lane closures are in place.”

On Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., temporary single-lane closures will occur on I-430 southbound beginning north of Rodney Parham Road as crews restripe lanes. The Rodney Parham Road to I-430 southbound entrance ramp will remain open, but delays could develop.

On Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m., motorists can expect one to two lanes of I-430 southbound to be closed, beginning north of Rodney Parham Road, and continuing through the construction zone. At times, travel will be reduced to one southbound lane for up to 24 hours. Crews will also close the West Markham Street exit. These lane and ramp closures will continue until all necessary striping work is complete. The Rodney Parham Road entrance ramp to I-430 southbound will remain open. Motorists are encouraged to identify alternate travel routes throughout the day.

Additionally, previously-announced periodic, temporary lane closures between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. daily on Financial Center Parkway and Shackelford Road inside the Big Rock Interchange construction zone could continue through 3:00 p.m. Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Also on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 p.m., workers will close the southeast loop ramp (Financial Center Parkway/I-630 eastbound to I-430 northbound). Over the weekend, and through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, motorists must detour southbound on Shackleford Road to I-430. Message boards, detours and advisory speeds will be posted throughout the area. The loop closure is necessary as workers hang steel beams for the I-430 northbound to I-630 eastbound connection.

On Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., temporary rolling single-lane closures will occur throughout many areas of the Big Rock Interchange, as workers restripe Financial Center Parkway, Shackleford Road, and I-630 inside the construction zone.

Once complete, this will mark the end of lane closures, ramp closures and traffic pattern shifts inside the construction zone through at least January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The \$124 million interchange modification project will continue through 2014. For more information, including daily maps illustrating each phase of work that is planned, go to [www.ArkansasHighways.com](http://www.ArkansasHighways.com).

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