



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT FOUR

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INFORMATION RELEASE

February 21, 2012

I-540 Lane and Road Closures For Fort Smith

FORT SMITH (21-February) The Contractor has informed the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department District Four Headquarters at Fort Smith of planned work that will affect traffic on I-540 in the area of Highway 45 (Old Greenwood Road) in Fort Smith.

Lane closures and short term road closures are necessary to allow the Contractor to install forms for the new bridge carrying Highway 45 traffic over I-540.

The Contractor will restrict I-540 to one lane in the northbound direction beginning at 10 p.m. on February 23. From 12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 5:00 a.m. on February 24, the lanes in the northbound directions may be closed for periods of up to 30 minutes at a time. After 30 minutes, a lane will be re-opened to allow traffic through the work zone before any additional closure. All lanes in both directions will be available to traffic after 5 a.m.

Adjustment of the times of any announced lane closures may become necessary due to weather or other unforeseen conditions.

In January, 2011, the Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a contract, in the amount of \$9.9 million, to Forsgren, Inc. of Fort Smith. The project is a partnership between the City of Fort Smith and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department utilizing Local, State, and Federal Funds to widen Highway 45 (Old Greenwood Road) between Highway 255 (Zero Street) and Phoenix Avenue. Work on the project is expected to be completed in Fall 2012.

Motorists are reminded that the speed limit in this work zone has been reduced from 65 miles per hour to 55 miles per hour, for the safety of the construction workers and the motorists. Increased traffic enforcement is scheduled in this work area and, under Arkansas law, fines are doubled for violations in the work zone.

Motorists are urged to use care and think ahead when traveling through the work zone. They should remember to **Obey the Posted Speed Limits and Other Regulatory Signing**; to **Maintain a Steady Speed**; to **Leave Room** between them and other vehicles; to **Be Aware of Road Conditions** in front of them; and to **Anticipate the Need to Stop or Reduce Speed Substantially**. Motorists are advised to take alternate routes to reduce congestion of this area.

Up-to-date information on lane closures on this and other projects in the state is available at www.arkansashighways.com.

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