

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/Danny Straessle

NR13-014
January 15, 2013

Highway 149 Overpass Crossing I-40 Near Forrest City to Remain Closed for Approximately Three Weeks

LITTLE ROCK (1-14) – The Highway 149 overpass crossing Interstate 40 east of Forrest City will be closed for approximately three weeks while construction crews work to repair an apparent failure in the shoring of an embankment where a new overpass is being constructed, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials. Traffic on I-40 is not affected by this closure.

The contractor has brought in additional resources to expedite completion of the work needed to re-open the roadway. Approximately 2,000 vehicles travel across the overpass daily, 43 percent of which are heavy trucks.

The construction is taking place at the Earle exit near Shell Lake on I-40 (Exit 260). During the closure, Exit 260 will remain open, but traffic will not be allowed to cross the Interstate. I-40 eastbound traffic can only access State Highway 149 to the south, and I-40 westbound traffic can only access Highway 149 to the north.

Message boards have been placed on I-40 that detour motorists at Exits 256 and 265 to enable crossing of the Interstate for motorists wishing to access Highway 149.

The project was successfully bid in June 2012 by Tulsa-based Manhattan Road & Bridge Company for approximately \$7.5 million. Work began in August. Completion for the new overpass is estimated to be in fall 2013.

Motorists should exercise caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones.

#####