



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT FOUR

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INFORMATION RELEASE

January 16, 2013

I-540 Lane Closures for Fort Smith and Van Buren

FORT SMITH (January 16) 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 between Highway 22 (Rogers Avenue) in Fort Smith to I-40 in Van Buren.

On Thursday, January 17, the Contractor will begin installation of advance warning signs for the project.

On Tuesday, January 22, the Contractor will place variable message signs along I-40, Highways 71, 255, and 22 and other roads connecting to I-540 interchanges to advise motorists that work will begin.

On Monday, January 28, the Contractor will begin work on the main lanes of I-540. Initial work will require closure of the left lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions from Highway 22 to I-40. These closures are necessary to allow reconstruction of the inside shoulder in the northbound direction and construction of temporary crossovers and temporary ramps in the median area at various locations along the route.

In November, 2012, the Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a contract, in the amount of \$78.8 million, to Kiewit Infrastructure South Company of Fort Worth, Texas. The project includes reconstruction of nine bridge structures and replacement of the driving surfaces of two bridge structures carrying traffic on the main lanes of I-540 and raising of bridges carrying Highway 64 traffic over I-540. In addition, the existing concrete pavement will be rubblized, to create a drainage layer, and overlaid with asphalt pavement.

Work on the project is expected to be completed in mid-2014.

Motorists are reminded that the speed limit in the work zone is 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 consider alternate routes to reduce congestion in the work zone.

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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