



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT FOUR

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INFORMATION RELEASE

March 27, 2013

I-540 Traffic Pattern Change in Fort Smith and Van Buren

FORT SMITH (March 27) The Contractor has informed the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department District Four Headquarters at Fort Smith of planned traffic pattern changes on I-540 in Fort Smith and Van Buren.

On Friday, March 29, beginning at 8:00 p. m. southbound traffic will be diverted to the existing northbound lanes of I-540 from north of Highway 22 to south of the Cliff Drive overpass. Northbound and southbound traffic will be separated by a temporary concrete barrier wall. Temporary ramps will allow access to the Highway 22 interchange.

The traffic pattern change will allow the Contractor to replace the existing bridge over Highway 22, rubblize the existing concrete driving surface, and place a new asphalt driving surface on the existing southbound lanes.

This stage will take approximately four months to complete. Completion of the project is expected in mid-2014.

The motorists are reminded that the traffic on the main lanes of I-540 should not stop to allow ramp traffic to enter the interstate. Motorists on the main lanes should maintain a steady speed and leave room between their vehicle and others and motorists on the ramps should evaluate the traffic on the main lanes and enter when there is space between main lane traffic to safely do so.

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 Signage**; 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.

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 re-construction of nine bridge structures, 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. The existing concrete pavement is being rubblized, to create a drainage layer, and overlaid with asphalt pavement.

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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