



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT FOUR

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INFORMATION RELEASE

September 27, 2013

I-540 Traffic Pattern Change in Fort Smith

FORT SMITH (September 27) The Contractor has informed the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department District Four Headquarters at Fort Smith of planned changes to traffic patterns in the construction zone that will affect traffic on I-540 between Kelley Highway in Fort Smith and Highway 59 in Van Buren.

On Monday, September 30, 2013, the Contractor will begin the process to move all traffic to the southbound lanes from north of Kelley Highway to Highway 59. The contractor will begin making traffic changes after 8 p.m. on Monday.

Traffic will be diverted to and from the southbound lanes by temporary median crossings. Northbound and southbound traffic will be separated by a temporary concrete barrier wall. Temporary ramps will allow access at all interchanges.

Adjustment of the dates of the traffic changes may be required due to weather or other unforeseen traffic conditions.

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. Work on the project is expected to be complete 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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