



INFORMATION RELEASE

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One Lane of State Highway 23 in Franklin County at Slide Location Opens to Traffic

LITTLE ROCK (10-9) – Reconstruction of State Highway 23 north of Interstate 40 in Franklin County has progressed to the point where one lane is open for traffic, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Last May, a slope supporting the roadbed on the east side of the highway slid due to saturation from a large amount of rain and caused large cracks to form in the northbound and southbound travel lanes, rendering both impassable. The route has been closed since.

In August, the Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a \$1.8 million contract to Kesser International, Inc. of North Little Rock to repair the 700 linear feet of State Highway 23 affected by the slide. Motorists should note the one available lane at this time is comprised of compacted gravel, yet is suitable for slow-moving traffic.

Portable traffic signals have been installed on each end of the work zone to govern use of the one available lane. Motorists are advised to slow down and proceed with caution through the active work zone, obeying all warning signs. Additionally, motorists need to be prepared to stop and obey the traffic signal operations.

The project remains on schedule and both lanes are anticipated to open on or before October 30, 2015.

Additional State Highway closures can be found at www.idrivearkansas.com/closures/ or www.arkansashighways.com. Follow us on Twitter @AHTD for alerts about travel conditions throughout Arkansas.