



INFORMATION RELEASE

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NEW MERGE TECHNIQUE TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON INTERSTATE 40 IN POPE COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (3-4) – A new merging technique will be used on Interstate 40 in Pope County, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

The new merging technique, sometimes called the “Zipper,” promotes merging closer to the closed lane. Additional signs will be placed to promote the use of both lanes up to the merge point and encourage drivers to take turns merging once they arrive at the merge point. The technique is designed to reduce congestion leading into the work zone. [Click here for a link to video of the merge technique being used in another state.](#)

“Motorists have done a fine job in following our traditional and predictable merge to the left before entering all of our work zones,” says AHTD Director Scott Bennett. “Now we are asking for their patience as we try something new and evaluate the results.”

The westbound outside lane closure will be **Friday, March 6th through Friday, March 20th**, weather permitting. If the lane closure can’t be performed on Friday, it will be postponed until Saturday, March 7th. The lane closure will begin near mile marker 85 and tie into the existing lane closure at mile marker 81. Traffic will be controlled using barrels and warning signs.

Crews are reconstructing 7.2 miles and replacing 4 bridges on Interstate 40, south of Russellville. This entire \$42.3 million project is scheduled to be complete by April 30th, 2015.

Drivers should exercise caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones. Additional travel information can be found at IDriveArkansas.com or ArkansasHighways.com. You can also follow us on [Twitter @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD).

