



# INFORMATION RELEASE

## Office of the Director

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### **Improvements Require Lane Shift at U.S. Highway 71B Exit in Bentonville**

**BENTON COUNTY (03-17)** – Construction on the Bella Vista Bypass (Highway 549/Future Interstate 49) requires a lane shift to a new I-49 southbound exit ramp to access U.S. 71B (North Walton Boulevard) in Bentonville, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Beginning **Monday morning, March 20**, southbound traffic using the I-49 exit ramp (Exit 93) to U.S. 71B will shift lanes to a newly constructed ramp west of the existing alignment. This work is associated with the roundabout construction at I-49. This lane shift will remain in effect through the remainder of the roundabout's construction. Mainline I-49 and U.S. Highway 71 will not be affected.

The lane shift will begin **Monday, March 20 at 9:00 a.m.**, weather permitting. Traffic will be controlled using signage, pavement markings, and traffic barrels. Motorists should reduce exit speeds to safely negotiate the new alignment.

This project is constructing approximately 6 miles of the bypass, extending from Highway 71B to Highway 72 South. The project involves the initial two lanes of a four-lane facility. The project is part of the Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP), which is funded through a 10-year, half-cent sales tax. More information is available at [ConnectingArkansasProgram.com](http://ConnectingArkansasProgram.com).

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

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