



Making the Change

Converting Interstate 30 Frontage Roads to One-Way



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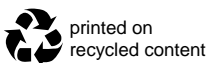


Making the Change is published periodically by the Atlanta District of the Texas Department of Transportation to inform the public about progress of construction work on the Interstate 30 Frontage Roads project in Texarkana.

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Change coming in February

Get ready for one-way

It has been two years in coming, but the first major change in traffic patterns along the Interstate 30 Corridor will come in February. That is when the frontage roads will officially be converted to one-way—eastbound only on the south side of the Interstate and westbound only on the north side.

“The change will occur literally overnight,” said Kenny Icenhower, area engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation in Texarkana. “Texarkana motorists will go home one afternoon and when they return the next morning, the frontage roads will be one-way.”

The traffic lanes that will be closed one each side will be cordoned off with barrels at first until motorists become familiar with the one-way traffic patterns and the roadways are striped and signed for the one-way traffic.

The change will affect the frontage roads also known as St. Michael Drive, Mall Drive, Sowell Lane and North Bishop Drive.

“We will have notices in the local newspaper and broadcast on local radio and television stations once we start getting close to the change date,

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Base materials are finally down on the new section of frontage road between New Boston Road and Pecan Street on the south side of Interstate 30 and crews continue to construct the bridges and overpasses that will be part of the big interchange at Loop 151.

More big changes in traffic coming in 2009

Converting the Interstate 30 frontage roads to one-way will be the first of many changes Texarkana motorists will experience during the coming year.

Concrete beams have already been placed for the new outer bridges at Richmond Road. These bridges will be used as turnarounds on each side to allow traffic to access the opposite side of the interstate without having to pass through a signalized intersection. But first, these bridges will be used as a detour for traffic on Richmond Road as the main structure is torn out and replaced.

“We plan on replacing the Richmond Road structure this summer and the Summerhill Road structure during the summer of 2010,” said Kenny Icenhower, area engineer for TxDOT in Texarkana. “North- and south-bound traffic will be moved to the new bridges while the old structure is removed and a new one constructed.”

The new structures will be longer than the current ones which will allow for the new frontage roads to be moved underneath the bridges near the Interstate 30 traffic lanes. This will allow through-traffic to pass

freely through the interchange without having to go through a signalized intersection.

Work will begin this year on relocating Interstate 30 entrance and exit ramps along the Texarkana corridor.

“We are getting away from the diamond interchanges and moving the ramps back so traffic will have more time to merge with frontage road traffic and get into the proper lanes for turning before reaching the next intersection,” Icenhower said.

Construction will also continue on the many ramps and bridges at the intersection of Interstate 30 and Loop 151.

The new frontage roads between Summerhill Road and State Line Avenue should be open some time this year. They will, of course, be one-way when they do open to traffic.

“We certainly appreciate all the cooperation and patience we have received from the local citizens so far and hope everyone traveling in the construction areas will use extra caution as we go through the coming year of work,” Icenhower said.

Changing to one-way traffic safer for everyone

(Continued from page 1)

which has yet to be set. We will also have portable message board signs up about a month ahead of time alerting motorists of the change,” Icenhower said.

“There are several projects that need to be completed before traffic can be changed to one-way. Weather conditions and the progress of work will play into setting the date for the changeover,” he said.

The new frontage roads between Pecan Street and New Boston Road and the University Drive overpass will need to be completed before the traffic pattern can change. Sections of the new frontage roads between Summerhill Road and State Line Avenue will remain closed and under construction.

“Changing the frontage roads to one-way at this time will make the frontage roads safer for motorist and construction workers,” Icenhower said. “Motorists will not have to worry about opposing traffic cutting across in

front of them and workers will have additional working room near traffic. It will just take a little while for everyone to get use to the one-way traffic patterns.”

Traffic at intersections should move a little smoother since one direction of traffic and one phase of the signal lights will be removed from each intersection.

Once the frontage roads are changed to one-way, the contractor for the project will begin constructing the new entrance and exit ramps to interstate 30.

When completed, the entire frontage road system through Texarkana will be more urbanized, allowing traffic to move smoothly and efficiently along Interstate 30 and across it.

“We know that traffic in the construction zones will be worse at times while the work in progress, but once it is completed, we feel the people of Texarkana will be very satisfied with the efficiency and look of the new system,” Icenhower said.



Workers prepare to raise the high-intensity lighting fixtures on a high mast near Loop 151. The lighting fixtures are made where they can be lowered for easier maintenance.

High-mast lighting brightens entire interchanges

Highway interchanges will be well lit at night along the Interstate 30 corridor in Texarkana with each being illuminated with bright high-mast lighting.

The lighting fixtures—made up of 12 lamps with 400-watt bulbs—are perched atop poles ranging from 100 to 175 feet high. These fixtures illuminate the entire interchange with a continuous solid light instead of having pockets of lights like you do with normal street lights.

While they do light up the entire interchange, they do not light up the surrounding neighborhoods. Shades around the bulbs direct the light down toward the roadway and not into surrounding areas, therefore reducing light pollution.

The fixtures are also designed where workers can winch them down for routine maintenance instead of

having to use special long-armed bucket trucks.

The lights are similar to the ones currently in use at interchanges along Loop 151 in Texarkana.

Have a question?

Anyone who has a question or a problem concerning the construction work on the Interstate 30 frontage roads can call the Texarkana Area Office at 903-838-8574 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Questions and comments can also be sent via email to ATL-IH30@dot.state.tx.us.

Anyone with questions or comments about the *Making the Change* newsletter can contact Marcus Sandifer, Public Information Officer for the TxDOT Atlanta District at 903-799-1306.

All inquiries will be answered as soon as possible by Texas Department of Transportation personnel.



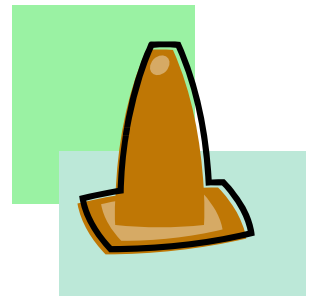
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