



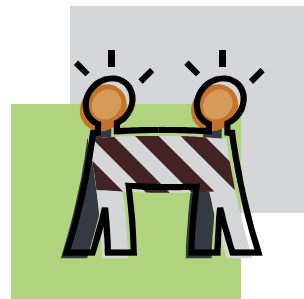
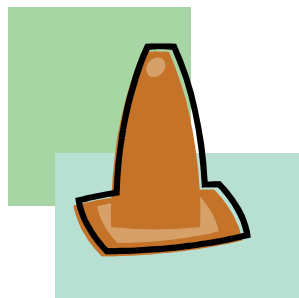
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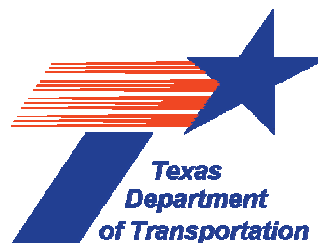
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Christmas congestion</i>	2
<i>Project beautification</i>	3
<i>Who to call</i>	3
<i>Website News</i>	4



*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.

# Construction begins to fill in gaps, build overpasses

Construction work is in full swing now to begin filling in the gaps in the present Interstate 30 frontage roads and to begin constructing some of the new overpasses that will cross over the highway corridor.

Current areas of construction are at the south side of Interstate 30 between Pecan Street and US 59, and both the north and south sides of interstate between State Line Avenue and Summerhill Road.

The rights of way have been cleared and work to install drainage structures has begun. Once this work is completed, then the roadbeds will be constructed.

Work on constructing the columns for overpasses and bridges has also begun at University Avenue and the Kansas City Southern Railroad.

Concrete barriers have been placed along several sections of the interstate main lanes to help protect personnel and equipment conducting construction work in these areas. Motorists on Interstate 30 can also expect some lane closures when certain types of work are being done in these areas, so some delays in travel can be expected.

Work is also underway to clear the rights of way of trees and brush where the new

on/off ramps and frontage road relocations will be constructed. Motorists are urged to be watchful for all workers

and equipment in the construction zones.

Other work expected to  
*(Continued on page 3)*



Workers prepare a rebar support for columns that will be part of the bridge crossing Interstate 30 at University Avenue near the new Gander Mountain store.

# Christmas shoppers crowd local streets, revealing true need for improvements in traffic patterns



Christmas shoppers crowd Richmond Road the Friday before the holiday. Richmond Road has become a focal point for traffic as shoppers travel between the many new retail outlets that have been built along Interstate 30 in recent years.



Even the frontage roads along the north side of Interstate 30 were congested during the Christmas shopping season. Motorists can avoid some of the most congested areas by learning and using alternate routes and back roads to businesses.



Traffic on Interstate 30 also suffered from periods of congestion as workers installed protective concrete barriers along the highway where they will be working close to traffic.



Construction work has begun on clearing the rights of way to fill in the frontage road gaps. This section of work is being conducted between FM 989 (Kings Highway) and US 59.



Over the past few years, a boom in the construction of commercial businesses along the Interstate 30 corridor through Texarkana has created a traffic headache for many local motorists as they travel through the area to shop, get to work, go out to eat or even to go home. The new one-way frontage road system should help to eliminate many of the problems.

# Landscaping to make I-30 corridor beautiful again

Several complaints have been heard about removing so many of the trees along the Interstate 30 corridor in Texarkana, creating an eyesore. However, even though removal of the trees is necessary to allow for the construction of the new on/off ramps and frontage road relocations, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has re-landscaping plans in the project.

“About \$1 million has been set aside in the project to landscape much of the route with new trees, shrubs and grasses. The overall appearance should be much more aesthetic than it was before,” said Jason Overmyer, Landscape Architect for TxDOT in Atlanta. “There will be more than 1,000 shade and ornamental trees planted as well as decorative beds of ornamental and native grasses that will blend in with the design of the frontage roads.”

Tree varieties will vary from 4 to 12 feet tall at time of planting and includes: Cedar Elms, Shumard Oaks, Chinese Pistaches, Japanese Black Pines, Red Buds, Crape Myrtles and Vitex. The variety of shrubs and grasses includes: Red Yucca, Muhly Grass, Bushy Blue Stem, Purple Threawn, Weeping Love Grass, Indian Grass, Little Blue Stem, Green Sprangletop and Buffalo Grass.

“We will certainly try to save as many of the mature trees that we can, but due to the extent of the work being done, it seems there will be very few that we can,” Overmyer said. “That is why we felt it was so important to put something back that would both enhance and beautify the rights of way along the route.”



Many of the trees along the Interstate 30 corridor through Texarkana are being removed to make way for the new construction work, but \$1 million set aside for landscaping will help beautify the route once more.

An electronically timed irrigation system will also be part of the landscaping project to help insure that the plants get established have adequate chances of survival in spite of any dry weather the area may experience.

There is also a two-year maintenance program in the contract to assure all the plants are properly cared for and have an established root system. The program includes proper irrigation, mowing, pruning, plant replacement, litter pick up, weeding, and mulching as needed. Any plants that die for some reason or another will be replaced by the contractor during this two-year time period.

Most of the landscaping portion of the project will come toward the end of the work after the roadways are in their proper locations.

**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](mailto: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.

## Construction begins

*(Continued from page 1)* begin in the near future includes work on the University Avenue overpass and approaches on the north side of the interstate and work on the turn around under US 59 at the New Boston Road (US 82) interchange.