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**katy freeway** SM

## Construction Underway on Final Contract Awarded on the IH 10/Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program

**With Work Begun on Final Contract, Overall Completion of Katy Program in Near Future!**

The demolition of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge located just west of Washington Avenue is a major milestone of the final contract associated with the Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program. The contract, referred to as **Contract G**, was awarded to Balfour Beatty Construction and consists of the total reconstruction of 1.65 miles of IH 10, from east of IH 610/ West Loop to west of Washington Avenue and includes the reconstruction of the UPRR bridge that crosses over IH 10.

The contractor began construction in March 2007 and recently completed the first major milestone on this contract with the completion of a temporary UPRR Bridge just west of Washington. The demolition of the old bridge took place over the weekend of September 28. The temporary railroad bridge, referred to as a shoofly, will facilitate railroad traffic until the new permanent UPRR Bridge is completed in February 2008. The new railroad bridge is being rebuilt to accommodate the freeway improvements. These improvements include additional lane capacity under the UPRR Bridge and the opening of the Inner Katy Connector ramp that will facilitate the transition of traffic to and from the Northwest Transit Center. Traffic lanes within this contract's limits are expected to be in their final configuration by August 2008.



*Over the weekend of September 28th, crews complete the demolition of the existing Union Pacific Railroad Bridge over IH 10 and remove debris to re-open the freeway to traffic.*

**[www.katyfreeway.org](http://www.katyfreeway.org)**





## Construction Program Status



### Website

Check out the Katy Freeway Website for more photographs of the on-going construction along the Katy Freeway at:

[www.katyfreeway.org/construction\\_photos/construction\\_photos\\_main.html](http://www.katyfreeway.org/construction_photos/construction_photos_main.html)

### ► Contracts A and B



### ► Contract C1 Update

#### SH 6 to Dairy Ashford

Another major milestone was completed in August when Williams Brothers Construction successfully completed IH 10 eastbound pavement work and transitioned traffic to the new IH 10 eastbound mainlanes. Drainage installation was completed and pavement installation has started at the SH-6 southbound frontage road. The contractor is expected to complete the SH-6 southbound frontage road within the next two months. Additionally, installation of the new Langham Creek eastbound frontage road bridge will begin sometime in November 2007.



*Contract C1 - Workers are constructing the retaining wall along SH 6, north of IH 10/Katy Freeway.*

### ► Contract C2 Update

#### East of Eldridge to East of Kirkwood

In the recent months, Balfour Beatty Construction focused on the construction and opening of the new IH 10 westbound exit ramp to and entrance ramp from Dairy Ashford as well as the shift of eastbound frontage road traffic to new pavement. The contractor recently switched the entrance and exit ramps between Kirkwood and Dairy Ashford by placing temporary ramps while the permanent ones are constructed. Additionally, southbound traffic on Kirkwood has been switched



*Contract C2 - Crews excavate and grade the southbound lanes of Kirkwood (looking south).*



to new pavement south of IH 10. The anticipated completion date of this contract is December 2007.

### ► **Contract D Update**

#### **IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange**

The first two direct connector ramps taken out of service as part of the IH 10/Beltway 8 interchange reconstruction have been completed and re-opened to traffic — both ahead of schedule. Currently, the contractor continues work on the third direct connector ramp that is scheduled to re-open in November 2007. With the recent closing of the fourth direct connector ramp in early October, the contractor now has four remaining ramps to demolish and reconstruct over the next year. In addition to the removal of dirt and equipment on the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage roads, traffic on the IH 10 eastbound frontage road between Wilcrest and Beltway 8 was switched to new pavement and the IH 10 westbound and eastbound U-turns at Beltway 8 were opened to traffic.



*Contract D - Direct Connector A (Beltway 8 southbound to IH 10 eastbound) opened early to traffic Friday, September 21, 2007.*

### ► **Contracts E1 and E2 Update**

#### **Between Beltway 8 and IH 610**

IH 10 eastbound traffic was switched to new pavement between Campbell and Silber in September. This switch also included the opening of a temporary exit ramp at Antoine and an entrance ramp at Bingle. The Wirt/Chimney Rock entrance and exit ramps and the Post Oak/Silber exit ramp will remain closed until further notice. Construction continues on the building of soundwalls along the IH 10 eastbound frontage road between Campbell and Blalock/Echo Lane and along the IH 10 westbound frontage road between Silber and Bingle. Intersection replacement construction has started at Gessner and is also scheduled for the intersections of Gessner, Bunker Hill, Campbell, Blalock/Echo Lane, Bingle/Voss, Chimney Rock/Wirt Road, Antoine and Silber. The intersection work is expected to be completed by Summer 2008.



*Contracts E1 and E2 - As part of the intersection replacement occurring within these contract limits, the bridge structure over Antoine is being demolished.*

### ► **Contract F Update**

#### **IH 10/IH 610 Interchange**



### ► **Contract G Update**

#### **IH 610 Interchange to West of Washington**

Over the last several months, the contractor has focused on building the temporary UPRR bridge in preparation for the recent demolition of the existing bridge. Construction has now begun on the new, permanent bridge and is expected to continue through February 2008. Mainlane paving work is expected to begin in early Spring 2008. (See cover story on page 1)



*Contract G - The temporary Union Pacific Railroad Bridge is complete and runs parallel and to the west of the old bridge structure.*





## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Visit the Katy Freeway Web site for more FAQs on the program  
[www.katyfreeway.org/faqs/f\\_a\\_q\\_s.asp](http://www.katyfreeway.org/faqs/f_a_q_s.asp)

**Q. When will the Inner Katy Connector ramp from the Northwest Transit Center to IH 10/Katy Freeway reopen?**

**A.** The Inner Katy Connector ramp is scheduled to open in early Fall 2008. Although initially projected to open in August 2007, safety concerns for both the traveling public and construction workers require that this ramp remains closed through the duration of construction.



## SH 6 Construction in Full Gear

### Be Flexible, Plan Ahead, Be Patient.

In the previous edition of the Katy Freeway HiLight Newsletter, the new look for the IH 10/State Highway 6 intersection was featured. Construction activities associated with the new SH 6 overpass bridge are in full gear and will demand driver patience while our construction crews work to bring these improvements to completion as quickly as possible.

Before traveling in the area, motorists should be advised that SH 6 has been reduced to two lanes in each direction from the Addicks Dam to Park Row.

Additionally, the dedicated turning lanes on Park Row have been temporarily taken out of service while storm sewer installation takes place. These lane closures will continue through 2008.

Traffic engineers are regularly monitoring traffic flow in the area and adjusting signal timing to optimize traffic flow. Motorists are encouraged to be flexible, plan ahead and be patient when traveling in the area.



*Aerial overview of construction at IH 10 and SH 6 highlighting the recent demolition of the old IH 10 eastbound mainline bridge over SH 6 in preparation for the construction of the new structure.*

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**The Katy Freeway Public Information Team is available to meet with area businesses, interest groups and civic organizations to raise public awareness about upcoming activities associated with the Katy Freeway Program. If you or your organization would like to schedule a presentation to receive a program update, please contact the Katy Freeway Public Information Office at 281-589-5924.**