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Starting Later and Finishing Sooner

New Construction Schedule for the IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange Connectors

If there is a way to reduce construction duration and offer a time savings to the driving public all at once—the Texas Department of Transportation is going to find it!

TxDOT, working with Harris County Toll Road Authority and the roadway contractor has discovered an opportunity to reduce the duration of the direct connector (DC) reconstruction at the IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange. The original construction work was to take place over a two year period beginning in January 2007, and ramps were to be constructed two at a time. TxDOT is pleased to announce that with the new schedule, the DC construction will begin in the spring of 2007 and could be reduced by as much as 10 months with the contractor successfully meeting all the incentive-based milestones. The new schedule requires the brief overlap of three connectors to be closed simultaneously at two separate intervals during the construction and allows for work through the 2007 Christmas holiday season. Reduction in the duration of construction could equate to as much as \$6 million in time savings for the driving public!

The decision to reduce construction time during this phase of the project once again demonstrates TxDOT's commitment to partnering with the community to mitigate inconveniences due to the undertaking of such a massive freeway reconstruction project.

TxDOT is excited about the progress of the Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program. Two of the nine major construction contracts have been completed and recently, another major milestone on the IH 10/IH 610 Interchange contract marked the completion of the West Loop Reconstruction. The program as a whole is on track to meet the target date for substantial completion by December 2008.



The Katy Freeway Public Information Team has begun meeting with area businesses, interest groups and civic organizations to raise public awareness about the phasing of the IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange. If you or your organization would like to schedule a presentation to receive information on the new schedule, specific ramp closures, time frames and the detours required, please contact the Katy Freeway Public Information Office at 281-589-5924.

			2007											2008															
1	Direction	2	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D					
H	BW 8 SB/1H 10 WB	97																											
A	BW 8 SB/1H 10 EB	179																											
G	BW 8 NB/1H 10 EB	204																											
B	BW 8 NB/1H 10 WB	90																											
E	1H 10 WB/BW 8 NB	78																											
D	1H 10 EB/BW 8 NB	156																											
F	1H 10 EB/BW 8 SB	204																											
C	1H 10 WB/BW 8 SB	117																											

1. Direct Connector Name 2. Closure Duration in Days

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

► Contract A and B Planting

All roadway construction for Contracts A and B have been completed and all lanes have been opened to traffic. Contractors are now focusing on the aesthetic complements including the massive tree planting taking place in the area.

► Contract C1 Update SH 6 to Dairy Ashford

Williams Brothers Construction successfully completed the reconstruction of IH 10/Katy Freeway westbound mainlanes and entrance/exit ramps from west of Dairy Ashford to east of SH 6. In addition, the contractor completed the center portion of the IH 10 mainlanes and shifted IH 10 eastbound mainlanes traffic onto the new pavement. The contractor will open the new IH 10 mainlanes T-Ramp to and from the SH 6/Addicks Park and Ride and begin construction on SH 6 within the next few months.

► Contract C2 Update East of Eldridge to East of Kirkwood

Recently, Balfour Beatty Construction switched the IH 10 eastbound mainlanes traffic onto the new IH 10 mainlanes pavement between Dairy Ashford and Kirkwood, and commenced demolition of the existing eastbound mainlanes. The contractor was also able to begin working on the new IH 10 westbound frontage road from east of Kirkwood to Dairy Ashford several months ahead of schedule



Contracts A & B - Contractors planting trees in the vicinity of the intersection of IH 10 and Barker Cypress.



Contract C1 - Aerial view, looking west, of the new IH 10 mainlanes T-ramp to/from the SH 6/Addicks Park & Ride under construction



Contract C2 - The existing IH 10 eastbound mainlanes bridge over Kirkwood being demolished

as a result of completed right-of-way acquisition in the area. The contractor also began work on the IH 10 eastbound frontage road between Dairy Ashford and Kirkwood. The contractor's concurrent work on the westbound and eastbound frontage roads and eastbound mainlanes will continue.

► **Contract D Update**

IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange

Traffic was switched onto the new IH 10 westbound frontage road between Beltway 8 and Wilcrest and the new entrance ramp from Beltway 8, marking the end of another successful milestone. Over the past few months, a number of new columns for various direct connector ramps at the IH 10/Beltway 8 interchange were built and the contractor also advanced the construction of new IH 10 eastbound mainlanes and bridge over Wilcrest. Traffic on the westbound frontage road will also be switched to new pavement between Lumpkin and Brittmoore. The contractor is also working to complete the installation of drainage box culverts and the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage roads flyover bridges for the next milestone in early January 2007.

► **Contract E1 and E2 Update**

Between Beltway 8 and IH 610

In the coming month, contractor anticipates switching the IH 10 westbound traffic onto the new IH 10 mainlanes between Silber and Wirt. This switch will reopen the IH 10 westbound exit ramps to Wirt and Bingle/Voss and the entrance ramp from Silber. The contractor plans to continue work on the new IH 10 westbound exit ramp to Wirt/Chimney Rock and the new IH 10 mainlanes between Antoine and Gessner.

► **Contract F Update**

IH 10/IH 610 Interchange

The contractor has completed the reconstruction of the IH 610 West Loop mainlanes throughout the project limits. In addition, the reconstruction of the intersection at Post Oak, Woodway and Memorial were completed in December 2006. Over the last month, considerable progress was also made on the construction of the new IH 10 eastbound entrance ramp from Silber also known as the "Silber Tunnel." Currently the main focus is on completion of the IH 10 mainlanes, the detention ponds, the "Silber Tunnel", and painting. With a new anticipated completion date of May 2007, this contract is currently on schedule to be completed months ahead of the projected December 2007 completion.



Contract D - Aerial view, looking east, of the new IH 10 eastbound mainlanes bridge over Wilcrest



Contract E1 & E2 - Overview, looking west, of the construction area showing IH 10 eastbound and westbound mainlane traffic on new pavement near Gessner



Contract F - Aerial view, looking east, of the IH 10/IH 610 interchange



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

Q. How will TxDOT determine traffic detours associated with the upcoming IH 10/Beltway 8 direct connectors?

TxDOT will announce and sign the appropriate detours for each closure required for the IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange reconstruction. All of the designated detours will be via IH 10, the Beltway 8 and their respective frontage roads. Traffic will not be detoured onto city streets nor will drivers be routed through residential neighborhoods. Understanding that motorists are likely to explore paths of least resistance, we anticipate the surface streets will experience some traffic delays. However, TxDOT will not direct nor advertise detours off of the state highway system. The first ramps to close will be Beltway 8 southbound to IH 10 eastbound and westbound. As we get closer to the actual closures in early Spring 2007, more specific detours for the closures will be announced and advertised. If you don't already subscribe to receive your personal email notification, please click on the mailbox to receive future closure notices.



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Old Katy Road Bike Lanes Relocation Project

The widening of the Katy Freeway required the Old Katy Road bike lanes to be replaced. As a result, a new bike trail was constructed beginning at Dairy Ashford to the west and ending at Chatterton to the east. The new bike trail intersects with an existing City of Houston bike trail and a planned Harris County bike trail. Cyclists and walkers were allowed to officially use the new bike trail as part of the ribbon-cutting events held on October 13, 2006 to celebrate the completion of construction.



IH 610/West Loop Grand Opening and Media Event

This quarter also included the celebration of the "Early Holiday Gift" Grand Opening and Media Event for the West Loop (IH 610) mainlane completion. The new and improved West Loop, from U.S. 59 to U.S. 290, was opened to the public three months early on Monday, September 25, 2006. The improved mainlanes, combined with new entrances and exits to reconstructed frontage roads, provide commuters with more choices and more efficient ways to reach their intended destinations while easing congestion. TxDOT encouraged fast completion of the West Loop reconstruction by using a significant incentive/disincentive program that provided the contractor with a



financial bonus for early completion. While the mainlanes of the West Loop were completed in September, the contractor continued to complete the remainder of the project and the West Loop frontage road lanes and intersections were completed by December 1, 2006.

As a result, the final phase of the West Loop reconstruction, and therefore the entire project, was completed ahead of schedule.

