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katy freeway SM

New Look for IH 10/State Highway 6 Intersection

SH 6 Overpass for Express Through Traffic Coming Soon!

As construction progresses throughout the Katy Freeway Corridor, the Texas Department of Transportation embarks upon another major element of the Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program. In April, TxDOT contractor Williams Brothers began construction activities associated with the future SH 6 bridge structure over the IH 10/Katy Freeway mainlanes. A photo-rendering can be seen below. The start of this work signifies the beginning of the final incentive-based milestones for this contract.

Together with the improvements being made to the IH 10 mainlanes and frontage roads in the area, motorists will experience a new SH 6 that includes a four-lane bridge over the IH 10 mainlanes with two frontage road lanes in each direction for easy access to SH 6 businesses. Through traffic will be able to utilize elevated express lanes to bypass the signalized intersection at SH 6 and IH 10, and frontage roads at the intersection will offer dedicated turning movements to provide easy access to IH 10. The roughly 40 feet high and 3,300 feet long bridge structure will be constructed

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The Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program was an Infrastructure Award Finalist at the 2nd Annual CEMEX U.S. Building Awards on April 24, 2007, where the highlight was green building and design. One of 20 national projects, the Katy Freeway Project was recognized for its use of concrete and recycled products to design cutting-edge and environmentally friendly structures and its success with redesigning bridges and culverts to minimize impact on local wetlands and wildlife.



Photo-rendering of proposed SH 6 over IH 10 mainlanes





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

Construction Program Status

▶ Contract A and B Planting

Harris-Fort Bend County Line to SH 99
Contractor continues to focus on aesthetic complements in the area.

▶ Contract C1 Update

SH 6 to Dairy Ashford
Williams Brothers Construction successfully completed the reconstruction of the IH 10 T-Ramp, opening eastbound and westbound traffic to the Addicks Park and Ride. The IH 10 mainlane bridge over Langham Creek has been completed and SH 6 bridge construction started in April. Contractors are currently working on utility relocations and drainage improvements and will begin building the new SH 6 frontage roads toward the end of summer 2007. The anticipated completion date of this project is August 2008.

▶ Contract C2 Update

East of Eldridge to East of Kirkwood
Access from the IH 10 westbound frontage road to IH 10 eastbound was significantly improved when Balfour Beatty Construction opened the westbound to eastbound U-turns at Kirkwood and Dairy Ashford in March. In addition, IH 10 westbound frontage road traffic was switched to the newly completed pavement. All beams and bridge decks for the mainlane bridges at Kirkwood and Dairy Ashford have been completed as contractors now focus on major roadway construction at Dairy Ashford on the IH 10 eastbound frontage road and mainlane construction.



Contracts A and B - The completed landscaping along the IH 10 westbound frontage road west of Fry Road



Contract C1 - The new IH 10 mainlanes bridge ramp to and from the Addicks Park and Ride



Contract C2 - Construction crews are working on the IH 10 eastbound to westbound U-turn at Dairy Ashford

► **Contract D Update**

IH 10/Beltway 8 Interchange

Contractor opened the new Beltway 8-West northbound and southbound frontage road flyover bridges as the demolition and reconstruction of the eight direct connectors between IH 10 and Beltway 8 began. Currently, the first three direct connector ramps have been taken out of service. The IH 10/Beltway 8 interchange construction will continue over a 14-month period with the schedule allowing for two connectors to be closed at one time and the brief overlap of three closed connectors at two separate intervals during the construction. In addition, storm sewer work taking place along the IH 10 westbound frontage road between Lumpkin and the Rummel Creek outfall just west of Westerwood will be completed in June.



Contract D - The new Beltway 8 southbound to IH 10 westbound direct connector (DC H) is being constructed north of the old direct connector (looking west)

► **Contracts E1 and E2 Update**

Between Beltway 8 and IH 610

IH 10 HOV traffic was switched from its existing location to the completed eastbound mainlane pavement between Silber and the Northwest Transit Center in early May. Construction on the final portion of the new IH 10 eastbound mainlane pavement, permanent retaining walls and bridge structures at Gessner, Bunker Hill, Blalock and Campbell continues in addition to construction of the new bridge structures at Bingle, Chimney Rock, Antoine and Silber.



Contracts E1 and E2 - The contractor has completed several new columns for the new IH 10 mainlanes bridge over Wirt/Chimney Rock

► **Contract F Update**

IH 10/IH 610 Interchange

Final striping activities continue at the IH 10/IH 610 Interchange as this contract nears completion. Motorists will find the IH 10 mainlanes and direct connectors within these contract limits in the last configuration until they are formally tied in to the completed mainlanes with Contracts E1 and G. Contractor's focus is on the installation of permanent signals, right-of-way clean up efforts and overall aesthetic complements including painting, planting of grass and sidewalks. The landscaping contract for this area is expected to let in July 2008. Additionally, in the coming month the contractor anticipates the opening of the Silber Tunnel.



Contract F - The completed mainlanes of the IH 10/IH 610 interchange

► **Contract G Update**

IH 610 Interchange to West of Washington

This contract is the final of the nine major contracts along the corridor and was awarded to Balfour Beatty Construction on January 25, 2007. It is expected to be a 24-month project. In addition to the reconstruction of the IH 10 mainlanes, the contractor will reconstruct the Union Pacific Railroad bridge over IH 10, and complete entrance and exit ramps and connectors to the Northwest Transit Center. The Contractor is currently working on clearing right of way and preparing the area for construction activities to begin this summer.



Contract G - Construction has begun on the temporary Union Pacific bridge on the north side of IH 10



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. Will motorcycles be exempt from associated tolls and fees when using the Katy Toll Road/Managed Lanes since they have always been allowed to use the HOV system without penalty?

A. With the implementation of the new Katy Toll Road/Managed Lanes, the Katy Freeway HOV system will no longer exist. The Katy Toll Road will be an EZ Tag only facility with a total of three tolling locations between IH 610 and SH 6. Motorcycles will be viewed as single occupancy vehicles subject to applicable Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) tolls and fees.



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Silber Tunnel Nears Completion

Motorists accessing the IH 10 eastbound mainlanes from Silber will soon see major improvements as the Silber Tunnel nears completion. The entrance ramp to eastbound IH 10 from Silber will be accessible via a tunnel structure under the IH 10/IH 610 interchange. The completion of the Silber Tunnel is one of many program elements designed to enhance traffic flow in this area.



The Katy Freeway Public Information Team is available for 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.

SH 6 over IH 10 continued from page 1

between Park Row and Grisby. There will be aesthetically illuminated street signs at Park Row, IH 10, and Memorial/Addicks Howell. Contractors are currently working on utility relocations and drainage improvements and will begin building the new frontage roads toward the end of summer 2007. Motorists can expect to see the columns and retaining walls going up by the end of the year with actual bridge deck placement beginning the first part of 2008. The anticipated completion date of this project is July 31, 2008.