

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**I-10/KATY HOV CLOSURE – UPDATE**

(Houston) In an effort to minimize the duration of the upcoming I-10/Katy HOV closure, TxDOT contractors have identified work activities that can be completed in advance of the permanent lane closure allowing for the closure date to be pushed back to **Monday, September 1**. This change in date will not compromise the expected completion of the I-10 westbound mainlanes and will offer HOV drivers an additional week to plan and prepare for their I-10 westbound commutes during the HOV closure. As contractors complete final paving and striping activities, the new I-10 westbound mainlanes will open beginning on the western end of the corridor and will proceed east.

Special accommodations for METRO to maintain bus operations within a closed lane in the active construction area will still be provided. Drivers are reminded that for safety and liability reasons, carpools and vanpools will not be permitted to travel within the construction area. HOV service for carpools and vanpools within the new Katy Tollway/Managed Lanes will be provided by the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) in late October 2008.

We encourage the continued patience and flexibility of the driving public as we enter these last and very important phases of construction. Please note that all closures are subject to change in the event of inclement weather. For more information on the Katy Freeway Reconstruction Program, including up-to-date information regarding other lane closures along the I-10 corridor, please visit the Katy Freeway website at [www.katyfreeway.org](http://www.katyfreeway.org) or contact the Katy Freeway Public Information Office at 281-589-5924.

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