



TxDOT's four goals: Maintain a safe system, address congestion, connect Texas communities, and be a Best-in-Class state agency

For Immediate Release

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TxDOT COMPLETES US 290 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BARKER CYPRESS

Innovative phasing helps bring congestion relief to motorists

HOUSTON – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District has completed an intersection improvement project on the US 290 westbound frontage road at Barker Cypress bringing congestion relief to the heavily traveled intersection.

Two loop ramps have been built at the outbound US 290 frontage road and Barker Cypress to improve mobility and safety. "I'm so impressed on how the traffic has been alleviated," said Joe Scala, general manager of HEB Cypress Market. "My customers have commented on the ease of access entering and exiting our parking lot." One ramp allows outbound US 290 frontage road motorists direct access to southbound Barker Cypress, and the other allows northbound Barker Cypress motorists direct access to the outbound US 290 frontage road. This configuration allows those two groups of motorists to make their movements without having to make left turns at the traffic signal.

"We were very excited to see how quickly and efficiently the contractors worked to get the project done in a reasonable time frame," said Leslie Martone, president of the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce. "The improvements have helped with the traffic flow tremendously!"

The ultimate vision of the US 290 Program originally had a price tag of \$4.7 billion and included a multimodal approach consisting of widening/reconstruction of US 290. The reality of the transportation funding crisis presented real obstacles for advancing the US 290 Program and projects were scheduled for construction through 2035. In 2011, transportation officials combed through a list of projects to explore what improvements could be delivered sooner rather than later. The frontage road project at Barker Cypress was selected as one of these projects to move forward as a Transportation System Management project utilizing the resources we currently had to bring relief to commuters.

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Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 11,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at www.txdot.gov. Fan us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/txdot; and follow us on Twitter, www.twitter.com/txdot.

TxDOT is committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for motorists who travel on US 290. The department entered into a memorandum of agreement with Harris County in April 2012 to implement an interim plan to provide much needed improvements on US 290. This includes adding general purpose roadway capacity, as well as a managed lane component, within the already approved right of way and pavement width along US 290.

Thanks to our partnership with Harris County and funding tools like Rider 42 and voter approved Proposition 12 and Proposition 14 bond proceeds, TxDOT is now positioned to move forward with immediate and funded improvements on US 290. Total cost for the implementation of the interim plan is approximately \$1.8 billion, which allows the department to greatly accelerate the construction schedule on proposed US 290 improvements from IH 610 to SH 99 and be complete in 2017.

While the US 290 westbound frontage road improvements at Barker Cypress are complete, the contractor is in the final stages of building two detention ponds on each side of Barker Cypress. TxDOT is also tentatively scheduling construction on Project D of the US 290 Program for early 2014. This project will rebuild US 290 mainlanes and widen remaining frontage roads in various locations from Telge to east of Mueschke, in addition to reconstructing the Barker Cypress bridge over US 290.

For more information, contact Karen Othon at (713) 354-1532 or visit the US 290 Program website at www.my290.com. Follow us on Twitter @my290houston.

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