



## **I-35 construction reaches milestone early**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2009

PR# 09-049

Driving through Norman will become a little easier this week as construction on I-35 reaches a major milestone – ahead of schedule.

The US-77 (Flood Ave.) exit from southbound I-35 is expected to be open in time for Wednesday morning traffic. Crews are expected to remove barrier walls Tuesday night allowing motorists to use the bridge during morning rush hour Wednesday. Motorists on southbound I-35 will see other improvements this week as the Robinson St. on and off-ramps are opened by Friday morning.

Construction of the US-77 bridge, which carries southbound traffic over northbound I-35, was scheduled to be completed by the end of July, in time for the fall school term. Weather permitting, it will be finished two weeks early. Aesthetic treatments add a distinctive Oklahoma flair to the structure.

The southbound on and off-ramps to Robinson St. were extended and resurfaced.

The improvements are part of a \$40 million project to widen the interstate from Indian Hills Road to north of Main Street. Besides additional lanes and a new US-77 bridge, the project will include safety features such as concrete median barriers and overhead lighting. The entire project is expected to be finished in the summer of 2010. Although various ramp closures are still expected, crews plan to keep two lanes in each direction open to traffic during the daytime throughout the project.

About 75,000 vehicles use that stretch of I-35 daily, making the interstate one of the state's busiest four-lane stretches of highway. At the time it was designed in the 1950s, the interstate was expected to carry 25,000 to 30,000 vehicles daily.

- [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us) -

**(Editors and News Directors: For media inquiries, contact ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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**Ahead of schedule: Work on the US-77 exit from southbound I-35 is expected to wrap up this week – two weeks earlier than originally planned. The new bridge is part of a \$40 million project to widen I-35 through Norman, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2010.**