



## **I-44/193<sup>rd</sup> E. Ave. interchange project in Rogers County begins Saturday**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2009

PR# 09-051

The I-44/193<sup>rd</sup> E. Ave. interchange is getting a major upgrade. A \$45 million project is set to begin Saturday, August 1, to widen I-44 from four lanes to eight at the junction, replace two bridges that are structurally deficient and functionally obsolete, and greatly improve the entrance/exit ramps. The work also includes widening 193<sup>rd</sup> E. Ave. to six lanes at the interchange.

Traffic will be kept open in both directions during the 21 month-long project, but drivers need to be prepared for slower traffic and shifting lane routes. The first phase of the work will be to build a new eastbound bridge on the south side of the junction. Once this bridge is finished, eastbound traffic will be shifted onto it, and the old eastbound bridge will be removed and replaced. Once the eastbound route is complete, work will begin to replace the westbound bridge. Widening work on 193<sup>rd</sup> E. Ave. cannot be completed until all new bridges are in place.

With more than 68,000 vehicles in this area each day, the majority of the lane closures will take place on evenings and weekends. Special provisions are in place with the contractor (Becco Contractors, Inc. of Tulsa), to help minimize the construction impact on drivers:

- I-44 will have 2 lanes open in each direction weekdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
- 193<sup>rd</sup> E. Ave., north of I-44, will have 2 lanes open in each direction weekdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
- All ramps to remain open, except for short durations in non-peak hours.**

Lane closures will be noted on ODOT's daily traffic advisories which can be found on [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us).

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**(Editors and News Directors: For media inquiries, contact ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000. A formal groundbreaking event for this project is planned for 10 a.m., Thursday, August 6 by the Cherokee Nation and the Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation.)**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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