



Next week brings changes for I-44 drivers in Lawton

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drivers in Lawton will notice construction signs and cones Monday morning as crews for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation begin setting up construction equipment for a stimulus-funded rehabilitation project on I-44 in Lawton.

The project is expected to start mid-next week with various lane closures on east and westbound I-44 at Cache Rd. The closures, which are expected to last several weeks and will be followed by others, are for temporary shoulder widening on northbound I-44 and building crossovers in the median in preparation for an upcoming traffic switch later in the project.

Drivers should avoid the area, if possible. Transportation officials urge drivers to remain alert while driving in the construction zone and to allow extra travel time because of anticipated traffic delays.

To assist drivers, real-time work zone information is posted on 10 message boards near the area, and eight traffic sensors are set up to trigger immediate messages about traffic delays or stops. Drivers should allow extra time for travel during the entire project, and use extreme caution in the detour areas.

Once the initial prep work is complete in early November, significant changes will be in store for drivers in the area.

- Westbound I-44 lanes will be closed and traffic detoured to the eastbound lanes.
- East and westbound I-44 traffic will be narrowed to one lane in each direction.
- East and westbound I-44 will not have access to Cache Rd.
- Eastbound Cache Rd. will not have access to east or westbound I-44.

Local traffic detours and additional information will be forthcoming.

The entire project is estimated at \$16 million and includes rehabilitation of nearly 3 miles of highway and bridge deck on I-44 starting about 2 miles north of SH-7, extending north. The contractor for the project is Oklahoma City-based Allen Contracting, Inc. The work is scheduled for completion in fall 2010, weather permitting. Traffic information can be found on ODOT's website, www.okladot.state.ok.us.

(Editors and News Directors: For additional information, please contact ODOT Media & Public Relations at 405-521-6000.)

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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