



Big change in store for downtown ramps as westbound I-40 Crosstown traffic is switched Sunday

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 15, 2012

PR# 12-007

The westbound I-40 Crosstown traffic switch is planned for Sunday, Feb. 19 and brings about a big change for downtown area ramps including the Robinson Ave. and Hudson Ave. ramps.

For nearly 50 years, westbound I-40 Crosstown traffic has used Robinson Ave. as an exit and entrance to the Crosstown. Once traffic is switched to the new westbound I-40 lanes on Sunday, drivers will no longer be able to use the Robinson Ave. on-ramp as the Oklahoma Department of Transportation works to improve safety by eliminating weaving movements in the area. The Hudson Ave. on-ramp will also close permanently. The nearest on-ramps will be at Shields Blvd. and Western Ave.

Access to I-40 from downtown or Bricktown events are encouraged to utilize Shields Ave. when leaving downtown. This is a convenient ramp for drivers and one that has added capacity.

The new westbound I-40 off-ramp to Robinson Ave. will serve as an excellent route for drivers going to the downtown and Bricktown areas. Also, the department worked hard to expedite the reopening of all four lanes of north and southbound Robinson Ave. recently between S.W. 6th St. & S.W. 11th St. and that is now open.

“We’re hoping the advanced warning of upcoming changes with the downtown ramps will help drivers to plan their route changes and transition more easily,” Division Engineer Paul Green said.

Access points for the new westbound and eastbound I-40 Crosstown include:

New westbound I-40

- on-ramp from Shields Blvd.
- off-ramp to Robinson Ave.
- on and off-ramps at Western Ave.
- off-ramp to Pennsylvania Ave.
- off-ramp to Agnew Ave.

New eastbound I-40

- off-ramp to Agnew Ave.
- on and off-ramps at Pennsylvania Ave.
- on and off-ramps at Western Ave.
- on and off-ramps at Shields Blvd.

For a map of the new I-40 Crosstown ramps and a detailed interactive route map, visit www.odot.org/newsmedia/i40-okc/index.php

Additional ramps will be available as construction progresses over the next two years. The flow of traffic on the new interstate will not be at its peak until construction is completely finished by 2014. The downtown roadway, commonly referred to by the City of Oklahoma City as the “Boulevard” will eventually serve as key access to the downtown area once it is completed.

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Sunday's traffic switch brings about a benchmark of progress for the I-40 Crosstown project. It is extremely important to realize however, there is a considerable amount of work ahead still with mainline I-40 as well as all of the downtown reconnections. Drivers are urged to remain alert to construction signs and slow down on the new interstate route as construction in the corridor continues. Drivers should remain flexible and allow extra time locating new routes.

As mentioned previously, transportation officials warned that while work on the new alignment had minimal impacts to traffic until now, construction is now near the downtown area and therefore, impacting traffic.

Daily closures will be noted in the Traffic Advisories section of www.okladot.state.ok.us.

In preparation of Sunday's traffic switch

Beginning Sunday, the existing westbound I-40 traffic will be narrowed to one lane between I-35 (Dallas Jct.) and I-44 (Amarillo Jct.) from 6 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or earlier if the transition is complete on the new highway. Also, starting at 6 a.m. all westbound I-40 on-ramps to the existing Crosstown will be closed permanently in order to shift westbound I-40 traffic to the new I-40 Crosstown alignment. Motorists are strongly encouraged to avoid the area and use I-44 or I-240 to bypass the Crosstown during that time.

Because all on-ramps to the existing westbound I-40 Crosstown close permanently at 6 a.m. Sunday, motorists are advised to use I-235, Sheridan Ave. and other local roads to access the downtown area during that time, if needed.

—www.okladot.state.ok.us—

(Editors and News Directors: Please announce this over the next week to warn drivers of the changes in store with the westbound I-40 traffic switch. For questions, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

I-40 CROSSTOWN RAMPS

Starting Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012

