

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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I-530 WORK SOUTH OF LITTLE ROCK NEARS TRAFFIC SHIFT PHASE

LITTLE ROCK (4-23) -- Crews working on the reconstruction of Interstate I-530, south of Little Rock (Jefferson and Grant Counties), are nearing a traffic shift phase in their staging schedule, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials. The work includes a seven-mile section of the scheduled total reconstruction of I-530 from Little Rock to near Pine Bluff.

Interstate Highway Construction, Inc. has a \$26 million project for the I-530 work from just south of the Pulaski County line to the Jefferson Interchange or between exits 15 and 24. Work began near the end of 2011. Estimated completion of this section is late 2013.

Total reconstruction includes removing all the old concrete and asphalt pavements and making improvements to the subgrade and base before replacing the surface with a new Portland cement concrete pavement. This type of work requires all traffic to shift to one side of the Interstate – where one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction.

The contractor is working to complete all the necessary preliminary work to shift northbound traffic and place all traffic on the southbound side during the first week or second week of May. Concrete median barrier walls are currently being placed and that work will continue through the week of April 23. Temporary access ramps have been constructed at the Redfield and Jefferson interchanges.

Three other I-530 reconstruction jobs are tentatively scheduled as part of the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program. The next section is scheduled for late 2012 from the northern end of this first job for 7.5 more miles to Bingham Road in Pulaski County. These first two jobs will overlap. The 8.8-mile section from Bingham Road to I-30 in Little Rock is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2014. A final section for 6.1 miles from Jefferson to Highway 104 is tentatively scheduled for early 2015.

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MEDIA NOTE: The week of April 23 will offer excellent visuals as crews finish placing the concrete barriers. Please contact Glenn Bolick if you want to go on site or for more information.