



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT FOUR

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INFORMATION RELEASE

March 5, 2012

I-540 Lane Closures For Fort Smith

FORT SMITH (05-March) The Contractor has informed the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department District Four Headquarters at Fort Smith of planned work that will affect traffic on I-540 in the area of Highway 45 (Old Greenwood Road) in Fort Smith.

A lane closure is necessary to allow the Contractor to complete items that will result in traffic being switched to the new northbound exit ramp from I-540 to Highway 45.

The Contractor will restrict I-540 to one lane in the northbound direction beginning at 10 p.m. on March 6 and 7, and ending at 6 a.m. on March 7 and 8.

Adjustment of the times of any announced lane closures may become necessary due to weather or other unforeseen conditions.

In January, 2011, the Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a contract, in the amount of \$9.9 million, to Forsgren, Inc. of Fort Smith. The project is a partnership between the City of Fort Smith and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department utilizing Local, State, and Federal Funds to widen Highway 45 (Old Greenwood Road) between Highway 255 (Zero Street) and Phoenix Avenue. Work on the project is expected to be completed in Fall 2012.

Motorists are reminded that the speed limit in this work zone has been reduced from 65 miles per hour to 55 miles per hour, for the safety of the construction workers and the motorists. Increased traffic enforcement is scheduled in this work area and, under Arkansas law, fines are doubled for violations in the work zone.

Motorists are urged to use care and think ahead when traveling through the work zone. They should remember to **Obey the Posted Speed Limits and Other Regulatory Signing**; to **Maintain a Steady Speed**; to **Leave Room** between them and other vehicles; to **Be Aware of Road Conditions** in front of them; and to **Anticipate the Need to Stop or Reduce Speed Substantially**. Motorists are advised to take alternate routes to reduce congestion of this area.

Up-to-date information on lane closures on this and other projects in the state is available at www.arkansashighways.com.

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