

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT DISTRICT FOUR

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INFORMATION RELEASE

July 3, 2014

Hwy. 71 Lane Closure for Greenwood and Fort Smith

FORT SMITH (3-July) The Contractor has informed the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department District Four Headquarters at Fort Smith of planned work that will affect northbound traffic on Highway 71 between Greenwood and Fort Smith.

Beginning Monday, July 7, 2014, lane closures may be expected in the northbound, outside lane (right lane) of Highway 71 between Elmwood Cutoff and Howard Hill Road north of Greenwood. The lane closure will allow for the connection of the entrance and exit ramps associated with the construction of future Interstate 49 between Highways 71 and 22. The Contractor intends to concentrate their forces on this portion of the work in an effort to minimize impacts to motorists. This lane closure is expected to remain in place for approximately 4 weeks.

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

In October 2012, the Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a contract, in the amount of \$22,649,692.08, to APAC-Tennessee, Inc. of Memphis, TN. The project includes concrete paving of future I-49 main lanes and ramps, as well as constructing median crossovers, traffic signals, a turn lane, and ramp tie-ins at Highway 71 north of Greenwood. The project also includes constructing ramp tie-ins at Highway 22 near Barling. Work on the project is expected to be completed in late 2014.

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.

Additional travel information can be found at <u>IDriveArkansas.com</u> or <u>ArkansasHighways.com</u>. You can also follow us on <u>Twitter @AHTD</u>.

