

INFORMATION RELEASE



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BRIDGE WORK REQUIRES LANE CLOSURES ON INTERSTATE 40 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE IN W. MEMPHIS

LITTLE ROCK (2-20) – Bridge work will require lane closures on the Interstate 40 Hernando DeSoto Bridge in West Memphis, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

Crews with the Tennessee Department of Transportation will be moving an electronic message board and inspecting the Mississippi River Bridge between Memphis and West Memphis. The work will affect I-40 eastbound and westbound traffic between the Mississippi River Bridge and the Arkansas Highway Police Weigh Station (Mile Marker 199).

Sunday, June 29, 2014 from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.: the westbound lanes of the bridge will be closed. This closure is required for crews to safely remove the electronic message board and move it to a new location. This work is being done in order to install a seismic expansion joint at the bridge abutment. A detour will be posted. All westbound traffic will utilize Danny Thomas Boulevard to Crump Boulevard in order to cross the Mississippi River on I-55. Message boards will be posted to assist motorists.

Monday, June 30, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.: the inside east and westbound lanes across the bridge will be closed in order to remove the barrier rail that now separates the east and westbound lanes.

In the following weeks, traffic will first be shifted onto the eastbound lanes, then to the center east and westbound lanes and finally the westbound lanes. Motorists will have two 11' lanes in each direction. Each traffic shift will last for approximately two months. These movements are necessary for crews to safely install modular seismic expansion joints on the bridge. Wide loads will be prohibited during this time.

Motorists should exercise caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones. Additional travel information can be found at IDriveArkansas.com or ArkansasHighways.com. You can also follow us on [Twitter @AHTD](https://twitter.com/AHTD). For travel and Tennessee construction information, visit the TDOT SmartWay web site at <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/tdotsmartway/> ###