

**I-35 Cable Barrier Project
Begins in North OKC**
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Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Information Release



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In an effort to improve safety on I-35 in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation will begin a project Monday to install cable barriers on a stretch of I-35 (also designated as I-44) between the Turner Turnpike and the I-35/I-44 interchange in northeast Oklahoma City.

The approximately \$700,000 project is scheduled to last about 60 days with the majority of work being done during the day.

Motorist can expect periodic lane closures on I-35 in the area through mid-April as crews construct asphalt shoulders in the median, prior to installing the cable barriers.

This project connects with the recently completed safety project that placed cable barriers on I-44 from near Classen Blvd (mile marker 125) to the I-35/I-44 interchange (mile marker 130) and continues the overall plan to install cable barriers on I-44 from the Turner Turnpike to the H.E. Bailey Turnpike where necessary.

Cable barriers are intended to help prevent median crossover accidents. They are designed to deflect the impact of an accident over an 8 to 10 foot area, reducing injuries to vehicle occupants. On average, cable barriers cost less than other barriers, and repairs can be made much more quickly following accidents.

About 75,000 vehicles travel I-44 in this area daily. Since 2000, there have been 15 crossover accidents and three fatalities on this stretch of roadway.

This cable barrier project and an upcoming project to place cable barriers on I-35 from 2nd St. in Edmond to Waterloo Rd., are part of a large series of a safety projects that began in 2007 to install approximately 270 miles of median barriers on high traffic corridors across the state. More than half of these projects have already been placed under contract at a cost of around \$20 million.

When first installed on the Lake Hefner Parkway in Oklahoma City in 2001, the cable barrier was the first of its kind in the United States. Since then, thirty other states have followed Oklahoma's lead and installed cable barriers. Since their installation, the barriers have been credited with preventing hundreds of crossover accidents.

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(Editors and News Directors: For details please call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Office at 405-521-6000.)