

**I-44 cable barrier
installation wrapping up**
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Information Release



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Work has started on the final leg of a series of cable barrier installation on I-44 in central Oklahoma. This project spans a 7.5 mile-stretch between I-240 and the H.E. Bailey Turnpike.

The project spans Cleveland, McClain and Oklahoma counties. This project was one of the first to be slated in the current cable barrier program. It includes an area where an Oklahoma City firefighter and his young son died in a crossover accident in mid-2007.

Work on the \$812,000 project is expected to continue until mid-fall. Lane closures are not expected, but crews will be working in the median and motorists are asked to be cautious in the area. Oklahoma City-based Midstate Traffic Control, Inc. is the contractor.

As a result of the project, cable barriers will have been installed in all necessary locations throughout Oklahoma City along I-44 between the Turner Turnpike and the H.E. Bailey Turnpike.

Up to 57,000 vehicles daily travel I-44 south of I-240. Crews also are installing cable barriers on a nearby stretch of I-44 on which more than 100,000 vehicles travel daily.

Cable barriers are designed to help reduce the number of median crossover accidents and cost less than other barriers. Repairs can be made much more quickly following accidents.

In 2007, officials announced a plan to construct 270 miles of cable barrier across the state. To date, contracts have been let on 192 miles of barrier.

When installed on Oklahoma City's Lake Hefner Parkway in 2001, it was the first pre-stretched, high-tension cable barrier in the United States and was first been put into service in Europe. Thirty-nine other states have installed the same type cable barrier or are in the process.

Since its installation, the barriers have been credited with preventing hundreds of crossover accidents. Combined, the barriers along Lake Hefner Parkway and I-35 in the Norman area have had about 750 known hits.

Although the barriers are designed to help reduce the likelihood of a cross-over incident, driver responsibility is also critical for accident prevention.

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