



New Year, New Ramp. BWX/I-44 Ramp Project Completes Saturday, Months Ahead of Schedule

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Motorists are starting early 2014 with a much improved ramp at one of the busiest interchanges in the state. The new eastbound I-44 ramp to southbound I-235 is scheduled to open Saturday, nearly three months ahead of schedule. In addition, the eastbound I-44 on-ramp from Western Ave. and the right lane of eastbound I-44 which had been closed as part of the project will reopen Saturday also.

The \$9 million ramp reconstruction project replaces the eastbound I-44 ramp to southbound I-235 with a longer ramp which connects to I-44 further east and to southbound I-235 further south to allow for safer merging between the two roadways and longer acceleration and deceleration lanes.

The project, the second of seven to reconstruct and greatly improve the interchange, included work on I-44 west of the interchange as well as work to add additional width and merging area to the westbound I-44 ramp to northbound I-235.

The reconstruction project, which started in June 2013, was awarded to Sherwood Construction of Catoosa. Throughout the construction project, only temporary, short-term lane and ramp closures occurred on the project and the current ramp remained open in order to minimize the project's impact on motorists. In addition, an incentive was placed on the project for early completion.

Motorists need to remain cautious in the area as crews will still be working in the area through Spring 2014 completing additional work around the new ramp and on eastbound I-44 in the area.

Over \$165 million in improvements to the I-44/I-235/Broadway Extension interchange are currently scheduled in ODOT's 8-year construction work plan. The next project in the corridor is scheduled for bids in 2014 and will reconstruct the I-235 interchange at N.W. 50th St., including a railroad bridge over I-235, as well as work to widen north and southbound I-235 in the area. Subsequent future projects on the corridor will construct longer ramps and new flyover ramps at I-235 and I-44 and widen I-235/Broadway Extension. An average of 120,000 vehicles travel through the I-44/I-235 Broadway Extension interchange daily.

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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