

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT
<http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/newsmedia/traffic-advisory.htm>

Traffic Advisory
January 21, 2010

I-44 bridges to be replaced in 161st E. Ave. corridor starting Monday

Starting Monday, drivers in Tulsa will need to be alert for another workzone on I-44 in Tulsa. Work will begin to replace two bridges that cross over 165th E. Ave., near the 161st E. Ave. junction.

The bridges were built in 1958, and both are considered structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. Currently, tarps and wire mesh are installed underneath the bridges to prevent falling bits of concrete from reaching the roadway. Inspections show these bridges are still safe for traffic, but due to concerns about further deterioration on these bridges, this project has been advanced two years ahead of the scheduled replacement date.

The nearly \$7 million project is expected to take just over a year to complete. The contractor, Manhattan Road & Bridge, will be replacing the current four-lane bridges with a single bridge that can accommodate eight lanes of traffic. There are plans to widen this portion of the corridor in the future, and the new bridge will be in place for that project.

To help with traffic during peak drive times, the contractor is required to have two lanes open on both eastbound and westbound I-44 between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays. Much of the work is anticipated to take place on weekends and on weeknights between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., and drivers can expect delays on both I-44 and 165th E. Ave during those times.

The Smart Workzone system in place for the current widening project at I-44/193rd E. Ave. has been expanded to also include this project. A series of more than 40 electronic message boards is in place surrounding these workzones, which relay instant information to drivers about any delays or stops in the area.

Daily lane and ramp closures will be listed in the traffic advisories section of www.okladot.state.ok.us.

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(Editors and News Directors: For the safety of your crews and ours, please contact the ODOT Media and Public Relations office to arrange parking and interviews in active workzone sites. We appreciate your efforts to safely coordinate these visits through our office.)