



Deconstruction begins on the old Crosstown bridge; Western Ave. to temporarily close Thursday

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deconstruction of the old Crosstown bridge, set to get underway this week, marks significant progress on the I-40 Crosstown project. For years the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has been working toward being able to bring down the old Crosstown bridge to make way for construction of the City of Oklahoma City's future boulevard and all of its reconnection to the new interstate.

Even though the deconstruction of the old bridge marks tremendous progress toward completion of the overall Crosstown project, for drivers it means more new street closures and changes to their routes.

It will take approximately eight months to fully deconstruct the old bridge between Western Ave. and Shields Blvd. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is working closely on coordinating with the City of Oklahoma City to close necessary city streets for safety considerations.

The first deconstruction activity on the old Crosstown will require a closure at Western Ave.. Once Western is reopened, the sequence of closures will be Classen Blvd., then Reno Ave. and will move east. In addition to the closure of city streets, the pedestrian traffic along these streets will also be restricted. A portion of the Bricktown Canal will have to be closed in July and then again in the fall.

Beginning at 6 a.m. Thursday, Apr. 26, Western Ave. will be closed between Reno Ave. and California Ave. until mid-May for deconstruction work. A signed detour will be in place directing drivers to use Classen Blvd. Access to the new I-40 Crosstown will remain open at Western Ave.

Drivers should expect additional congestion and begin locating an alternate route or plan ahead for extra travel time, especially during peak traffic hours. Please remain alert to construction signs and electronic message boards throughout the work zone. Daily closures will be noted in the Traffic Advisories section of www.okladot.state.ok.us.

Sherwood Construction located in Catoosa is the contractor on the \$10 million deconstruction project. Work is expected to be completed by early 2013.

With the new I-40 Crosstown corridor open, drivers are asked to remain alert and drive cautiously as construction continues until 2014.

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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