

## **First Phase of I-235/I-44 Interchange Awarded**

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Efforts to reduce congestion and improve the I-235/I-44 interchange took a big step forward as a project to reconstruct the southbound I-235 ramp to westbound I-44 was awarded at the Transportation Commission meeting Monday. This Oklahoma Department of Transportation project is the next phase in the overall Broadway Extension (US-77)/I-235/I-44 corridor reconstruction and the first major project on the I-235/I-44 interchange itself.

The \$23 million project, estimated to start in late spring or early summer 2011, was awarded to Haskell Lemon Construction Company of Oklahoma City and is expected to last slightly over a year.

The project will replace the current southbound I-235 ramp to westbound I-44 with a new, longer ramp which will allow for an easier and safer transition between the two interstates. While construction on the project is expected to last slightly over a year, a majority of the project phases will not affect traffic on the current ramp. Temporary lane closures are expected toward the end of the project when the new ramp will be tied into the current roadway.

There are over \$72 million in improvements to the Broadway Extension(US-77)/I-235/I-44 interchange scheduled in ODOT's new 8-year plan. Subsequent future projects on the corridor will construct longer ramps and new flyover ramps at I-235 and I-44 as well as improve frontage roads and complete the widening of Broadway Extension(US-77)/I-235 between 36th St. and Edmond. The remaining projects in the corridor not currently in the 8-year plan will be scheduled as years progress and funding becomes available.

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