



New Year, new bridge, new look in Norman
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Work will begin Monday, January 7 on a project that will change the look of the I-35 interchange at Main St. in Norman while improving safety and increasing capacity. The \$35 million project, awarded in November to a joint venture between Allen Contracting and Manhattan Road and Bridge, will completely reconstruct the interchange and remove the current design of the ramps. The entire makeover is expected to be completed in less than two years.

The Main Street bridge over I-35 will be replaced with a new Single Point Urban Interchange, which includes longer on and off-ramps at I-35 and a wider Main St. bridge. The second of its kind in Oklahoma, this interchange will allow large volumes of traffic to negotiate the area by using a single set of traffic signals on top of the bridge. The project will widen I-35 to six lanes from a half mile north of Main St. to a half mile south of Main St.

The main impact to drivers at the beginning of the project is the closure of the cloverleaf ramps. The northbound I-35 off-ramp to westbound Main St., southbound I-35 off-ramp to eastbound Main St., westbound Main St. on-ramp to southbound I-35 and the eastbound Main St. on-ramp to northbound I-35 will all be closed. Drivers needing to use those ramps will have to use Robinson St. when coming from the north or Lindsey St from the south.

Also beginning Monday is a bridge rehabilitation project for the I-35 bridge over the South Canadian River. The \$16 million project, awarded to Sherwood Construction, will add one lane in each direction to the bridge as well as make structural improvements.

Adding lanes to the bridge will ease congestion especially for those traveling southbound to SH-9 West. Drivers can expect some night time lane closures, but no significant impacts. The project is expected to take nearly a year to complete.

To minimize inconvenience to drivers, the ODOT has placed incentives in both contracts for early completion of the projects.

Daily traffic advisories will be sent out to inform drivers of traffic changes or short-term lane and ramp closures as the projects progress.

Next on the horizon are similar improvements at the I-35 interchanges at SH-9 and Lindsey St. These improvements will not begin until after the Main St. project is complete.

--www.okladot.state.ok.us--

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

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Closure details and clarifications during I-35 / Main St. construction in Norman

The Main St. bridge replacement and I-35 widening construction is set to begin Monday, Jan. 7. Meanwhile, please note the clarifications and further details about the project as **Main St. is not closed and not all of the ramps are either**. There is access to Main St. on and off-ramps just not in all directions. Please see below:

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Closing Jan. 7 through the end of the project, less than two years:

- Northbound on I-35 to westbound Main St. - CLOSED
- Southbound I-35 to eastbound Main St. - CLOSED
- Westbound Main St. to southbound I-35 - CLOSED
- Eastbound Main St. to northbound I-35 - CLOSED

Drivers are encouraged to use Robinson St. when coming from the north or Lindsey St. from the south as alternative routes.

The diamond ramps will remain open during construction with short time closures:

- Northbound I-35 off-ramp headed eastbound (only) on Main St. - OPEN
- Eastbound Main St. on-ramp going to southbound I-35 - OPEN
- Southbound I-35 off-ramp to westbound (only) Main St. - OPEN
- Westbound Main St. headed northbound on I-35 - OPEN

East and westbound Main St. will remain OPEN through all phases of the construction project, however, it will be an active work zone. Please heed the signs and watch for crews in the area.

Closures can be found at www.okladot.state.ok.us under Traffic Advisories or follow @OKDOT on Twitter.