

Subject: Ramps for the Next Phase of IH 35E Construction

Control: 0442-03-031, Etc.

Project: NH 2004(312)

Highway: IH 35E from Parkerville Road to US 77

County: Dallas and Ellis

Contractor: Ed Bell Construction Company

Dear Neighbors,

The next phase of IH 35E construction, between US 77 and Parkerville Road, presents challenges as well as opportunities.

During the previous phase, southbound traffic utilized the center detour and temporary ramps while the new southbound lanes and permanent ramps were being constructed. When a permanent ramp was complete, it was made available for use by southbound traffic. Temporary ramps were provided at every cross-street providing optimum convenience for the traveling public.

However, it required additional leave-outs or gaps in the new pavement that had to be built later. Consequently, the efficiency of the southbound mainlane construction was far from ideal.

In the next phase of construction, northbound traffic will be using the center detour while the northbound mainlanes and ramps are being built.

Because the elevation difference between the center pavement and northbound lanes is substantial in many areas, temporary ramps are much more difficult and costly to build. And unlike the previous phase, the elevation difference prevents the permanent ramps from being used once they are constructed. This situation required the temporary ramps to be positioned at strategic locations rather than at every cross street along the corridor. Though the level of convenience for drivers is less than before, the reduced number of leave-outs provides the opportunity to shorten construction time. Northbound ramp locations will include the permanent entrance ramp at US 77, a temporary exit ramp south of Red Oak Road, a temporary exit ramp south of Bear Creek Road, and a temporary entrance ramp south of Bear Creek Road. It is believed that this configuration represents an equitable balance between providing access, expediting construction, and managing costs.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Bill Pierce, P.E.

Ellis County Area Engineer

Texas Department of Transportation

972-938-1570