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SOUTHBOUND INTERSTATE 71 RAMP TO ZORN AVENUE REOPENED

Lane closures continue for bridge deck repairs

Louisville, KY (April 17, 2012) – Bridge deck repairs on the right lane of Mockingbird Valley overpass of southbound Interstate 71 were completed overnight allowing the exit ramp to Zorn Avenue to be reopened. This ramp reopened to traffic at approximately 3:45 a.m. on Tuesday morning, two days ahead of schedule.

Concrete repairs are continuing on the nine sets of bridges between Interstate 64 in downtown Louisville and Interstate 264 (Watterson Expressway). Southbound I-71 is reduced to one lane and work is scheduled to continue through 6:00 a.m. on Monday, April 30th. Repairs are currently underway in the right lane and work is expected to shift to the left lane this weekend.

Lengthy delays have been observed with these lane closures especially during the morning and evening rush hours. Motorists are advised to seek an alternate route or allow extra time to reach their destination.

People traveling to the Kentucky Derby Festival's Thunder Over Louisville event on Saturday, April 21st will be impacted by the construction. Work will continue through the weekend and the lane closures will remain in place. People traveling to Thunder Over Louisville should plan ahead for traveling into the downtown area.

Tractor-trailers and loads wider than 11 feet will not be permitted through the work zone. A signed detour will be in place via Interstate 264 and Interstate 64.

Lane closures for bridge repairs on northbound I-71 are currently scheduled for May 11th – 28th.

The final asphalt surface will be paved between Interstate 64 and the Blankenbaker Lane overpass (mile points 0.0 and 3.5). During this phase of the project full road closures will be utilized on two weekends between mid-May and early June. The schedule for this work will be provided as soon as possible and will be based upon weather and construction progress.

On average, 60,000 vehicles travel this section of roadway each day. The speed limit in the work zone is reduced to 45 MPH.

Construction began in August 2011 on this project, but work was limited last fall due to the closure of the Sherman Minton Bridge. Interstate 71 served as the detour route for accessing Interstate 65 and crossing the Ohio River into southern Indiana.

Gohmann Asphalt and Construction is the contractor on this \$10.9 million project. Work is currently scheduled for completion in June.

The actual starting date and duration of this work may be adjusted if inclement weather or other unforeseen delays occur. Dial 511 or log on to 511.ky.gov for the latest in traffic and travel information in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Traffic information for the District 5 counties is also available at www.facebook.com/KYTCDistrict5.

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