



CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority



News Release

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MoPac Lane Closure Signals Major Project Milestone Northbound Express Lane Underpass Construction to Begin

AUSTIN, Texas – Beginning Saturday morning, February 20, 2016, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority will be temporarily reducing northbound State Loop 1 (MoPac) from three lanes to two lanes between Lady Bird Lake and Enfield Road. The lane reduction is needed to create space for workers to begin excavating an underpass that will allow drivers leaving downtown Austin on Cesar Chavez Street to access the new northbound Express Lane.

In addition to the lane reduction, crews will be realigning the two northbound lanes as they come off the Lady Bird Lake Bridge. The realignment will require drivers to navigate a curve. An advisory speed limit of 50 mph will be posted. Drivers are urged to slow down and use caution when passing through the area.

The reduction to two lanes will start at the northbound Enfield Road exit. At that point the right lane of northbound MoPac will become an exit only lane for Enfield Road. Drivers wishing to continue north on MoPac will need to be in the center or left lane as they approach the Enfield Road exit. The two lane portion of northbound MoPac will extend for approximately ¼ mile. At that point the entrance ramp from Cesar Chavez Street and 6th Street will become the third northbound lane.

“During the course of this project we’ve done our best to minimize construction impacts in the corridor,” says Steve Pustelnyk Director of Community Relations for the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. “In this case we spent months looking at all of the options available to us. We determined this approach provided the greatest overall community benefit by speeding up construction and limiting impacts to adjacent residents.”

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The temporary realignment may cause some additional rush hour travel delays for drivers on northbound MoPac crossing Lady Bird Lake. However, it should improve mobility and reduce travel times for drivers entering northbound MoPac from downtown Austin via Cesar Chavez and 6th Street. Law Enforcement Officers and a motorist assistance vehicle will be staged in the area for the first week to provide immediate response for any incidents that might take place.

“While this lane closure may seem like a big deal, it’s important for drivers to remember that prior to 2010 northbound MoPac was configured just like this,” says Pustelnyk. “And, even now there are only two lanes on this stretch of MoPac in the southbound direction.”

The realignment and lane reduction will be implemented during the overnight hours of Friday, February 19th. Work will begin at 10:00 p.m., with a full closure of Cesar Chavez and 6th Street entrance ramp to northbound MoPac and a full closure of the Enfield Road entrance ramp to northbound MoPac. Detours will be in place. Also after 10:00 p.m., the center and right lane of northbound MoPac will be closed from the Lady Bird Lake Bridge to Enfield Road.

After midnight, northbound MoPac will be completely closed at the Enfield Road exit, and all traffic will be routed onto the Enfield Road exit. At that time, the entrance ramp from Enfield Road to northbound MoPac will be re-opened to allow drivers being forced to exit at Enfield Road to immediately re-enter MoPac northbound. Law enforcement officers will be staged at the Enfield Road intersection to ensure traffic moves smoothly through the intersection. All work will be completed no later than 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Construction of the express lane underpass is expected to take at least six months. Once work is complete, northbound MoPac will return to its original three lane configuration.

For more information about the MoPac Improvement Project visit www.MopacExpress.com.

About the Mobility Authority

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is a local, independent government agency created in 2002 to improve the regional transportation system in Travis and Williamson counties. The Mobility Authority implements innovative and sustainable transportation options to enhance quality of life and economic vitality in Central Texas. The Mobility Authority operates the 183A Toll Road in Williamson County and the 290 Toll Road (Manor Expressway) in east Austin and is preparing to start construction on the 183 South Project. For more information about the Mobility Authority, visit www.MobilityAuthority.com.

