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November 28, 2011

I-35W on-ramp at Meacham Blvd. closing for several months -- latest detour for North Tarrant Express project

Motorists accustomed to getting on Interstate 35W from Meacham Boulevard will have to change their habit.

The northbound I-35W on-ramp just north of Meacham Boulevard will be closed indefinitely, beginning Monday (Dec. 5). A temporary ramp will be opened in its place within a few months. Meanwhile, motorists wishing to access northbound I-35W are encouraged to instead go southbound about a mile to the Papurt Drive exit and make a giant U-turn.

The closure is part of the \$2.5 billion North Tarrant Express project, which includes the reconstruction of Northeast Loop 820 and the addition of managed toll lanes. Although the expansion of I-35W itself is part of a later phase of the NTE project, considerable work is taking place near I-35W and Meacham to make way for enormous flyover ramps that are designed to take traffic to the new toll lanes.

"We understand that the construction process can have a significant impact on area businesses, residents and commuters," said Lara Kohl, spokeswoman for Bluebonnet Contractors, the company in charge of the work. "We remain committed to finding solutions to mitigate the impact of these closures wherever possible, so we plan to construct a temporary ramp to allow access to northbound IH 35W during the construction process."

The project is expected to be completed in 2015, and it includes reconstruction of Loop 820 as well as Texas 121/183 (aka Airport Freeway) in Bedford, Euless and Hurst.

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