

I-35W traffic switch: Northbound ramp to Loop 820 opens Tuesday



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The new exit ramp from I-35W to Loop 820 in north Fort Worth opens soon. **Max Faulkner** - mfaulkner@star-telegram.com

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FORT WORTH — Navigating the obstacle course that is Interstate 35W in north Fort Worth is about to get a little easier.

A new exit from northbound I-35W to eastbound and westbound Loop 820 is scheduled to open Tuesday.

The biggest difference for drivers is that the exit for both directions is from the right side of I-35W. Currently, the exit ramp to westbound Loop 820 is from the left side of I-35W.

The new ramp is in between Meacham and Northern Cross boulevards and is further south than either of the current exits to Loop 820.

While the ramp opening is significant, there is still plenty of work to be done at the always-busy interchange, officials said.

“Once the direct connectors from northbound I-35W to eastbound and westbound I-820 are open there will be two more ramps that need to be complete for the general-purpose lanes at the I-35W/I-820 interchange,” said Tommy Williamson, spokesman for North Tarrant Infrastructure, which is the lead developer of the \$1.6 billion project.

Those ramps are from southbound I-35W to eastbound Loop 820 and from eastbound Loop 820 to southbound I-35W, Williamson said.

“There are also two TEXpress direct connectors that need to be built at this interchange,” Williamson said, explaining that more details about those ramps will become available as their opening dates are nailed down.

The biggest part of the project, known as the North Tarrant Express 35W, stretches from downtown Fort Worth north to 820 and should be finished by late 2018. A portion of I-35W from Loop 820 to near Heritage Trace Parkway should be finished by late 2017, officials have said.

The project includes reconstruction of existing main lanes, modernization of ramps and frontage roads and the addition of two toll express lanes in each direction. The existing main lanes will remain toll-free.

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