



I-35 Northeast Expansion Central CONSTRUCTION NEWS



January 2023: Issue 4

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The I-35 Northeast Expansion (NEX) Central project consists of construction of approximately 9.5 miles of elevated, non-tolled lanes from I-410 North to FM 3009. The elevated lanes will provide one high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and two general purpose lanes in each direction. There will be direct connections to I-410 N, Loop 1604 W and Loop 1604 E. Expected completion date is December 2027.

Striping Update

We thank you for your reports of the lane striping conditions in the area of southbound I-35 and Loop 1604. Major improvements have been completed, and we are continuing to work on it. For any further questions or concerns, please contact i35nexcentral@txdot.gov.



The photo above is an example of lane striping.

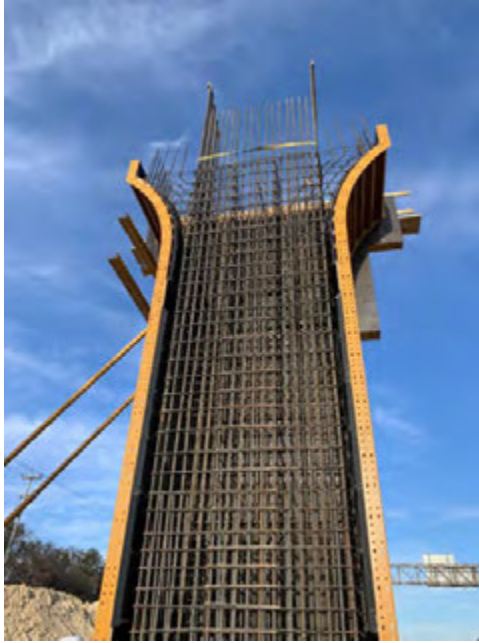
Lookout Road Lane Closures

The **Loop 1604 eastbound entrance ramp permanent closure**, located between Lookout Road and Biltmore Lakes, is scheduled to take place beginning January 27, 2023. This closure was originally part of the 2019 TxDOT Environmental Assessment Re-Evaluation. Traffic will access eastbound Loop 1604 using the next available entrance ramp between Biltmore Lakes and IKEA-RBFCU Parkway. There will also be a **temporary full closure of the Lookout Road turnaround lanes and intersection of Loop 1604** for bridge and barrier work beginning January 27, 2023. This will help provide for public and worker safety while there is active construction work on the existing Loop 1604 bridge above Lookout Road.



The image above shows the upcoming closures in the Lookout Road and Loop 1604 area.

First Column Rises on I-35 NEX Central

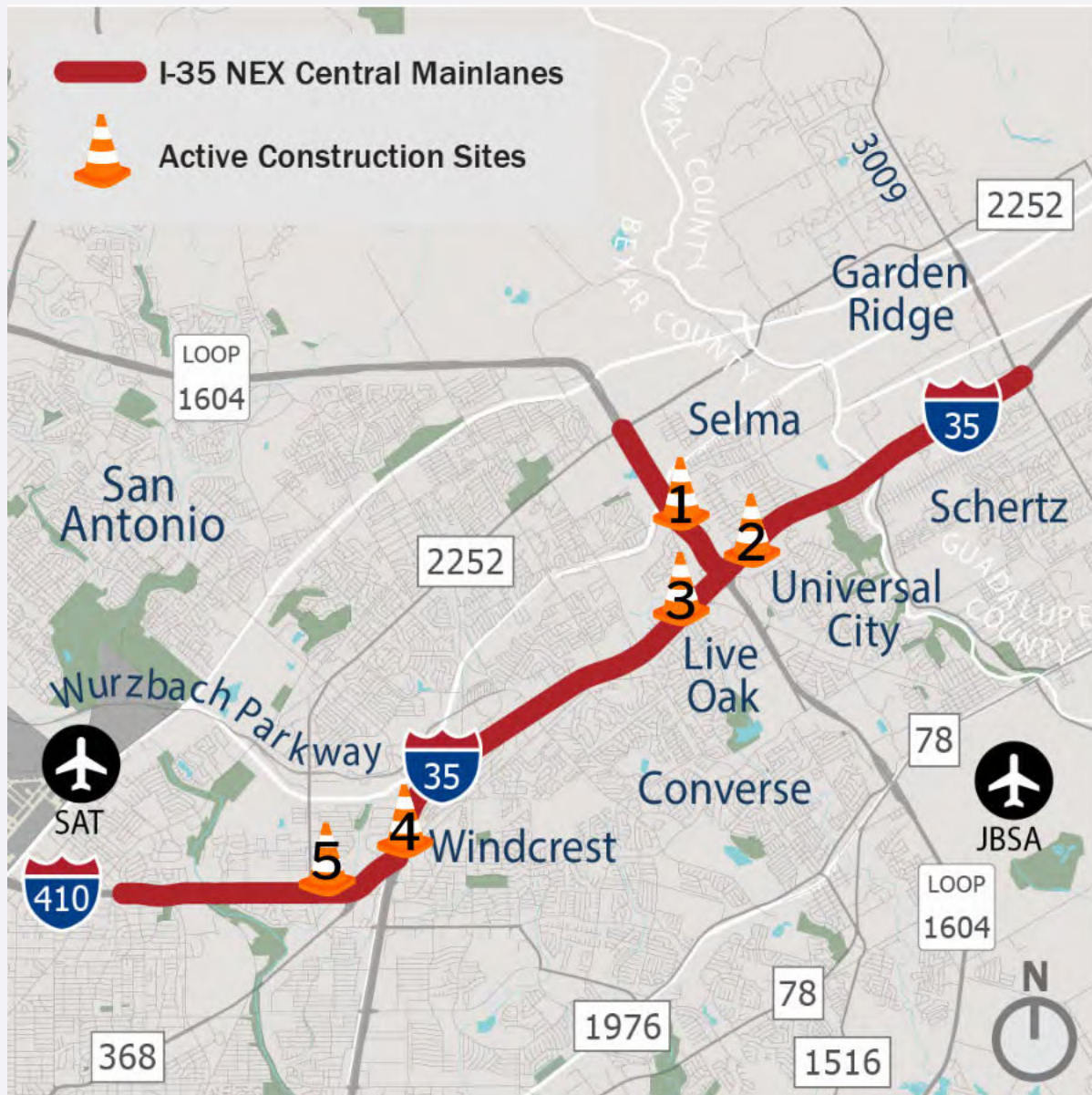


The first of over 1,140 columns has been formed and poured on the project! This column is located near the southbound frontage road of I-35 and Farsight Drive, and is visible from the southbound mainlane of I-35. The height of the column in this photo is 30 feet and sits above a drill shaft – the bridge foundation – that is more than 60' deep and 8' wide and will support the future elevated lanes. This milestone provides a glimpse at the vertical nature of the project as columns will continue to be formed through the remainder of 2023.

The photo above shows the first column formed on the project.

Active Construction Sites

The map below highlights where active construction is currently taking place on I-35 NEX Central, indicated by the traffic cones. The active construction sites shown on the map below are intended to indicate major construction operations. You can view project information and lane closures at www.i35nex.com. Please note construction preparation work, including placement of barriers, is also ongoing within the limits of the project.



The construction cones on the map indicate where active construction is taking place now through February 2023.

1. Lookout Road entrance ramp permanent closure at the end of January. The Lookout Road turnarounds and intersection will also be closed temporarily at the end of January for demolition of the Lookout Road bridge.
2. Preparation for drill shafts (bridge foundations) continues near Forum Parkway.
3. Bridge foundations, column work, and temporary road widening continues near Judson Road.
4. Column construction to begin on southbound I-35 near Randolph Boulevard.
5. Bridge foundation construction continues near Perrin Beitel.

Design-Build vs. Traditional Build



"Traditional build" and "design-build" are two different methods of approaching construction on a large project such as I-35 NEX Central. With a traditional build, architects and engineers are employed to design the project. Once the design is complete, a construction company will use that design to construct the project. In comparison, a design-build project utilizes one company to both design and build the project, which has several benefits, including streamlined processes, reduced costs and agility to adapt to design obstacles. The two approaches can be correlated to a puzzle. A traditional build method would give you the pieces of the puzzle, complete with step-by-step instructions on how to put the puzzle together. A design-build method would give you the puzzle pieces and allow you the creativity to put it together using the most beneficial approach. Because I-35 NEX Central is a large, intricate project, the design-build method was chosen as the build method. In fact, I-35 NEX Central is one of the first design-build projects in San Antonio.

Safety Spotlight: Barriers



The photo above shows barriers being installed at the Loop 1604 interchange from southbound I-35.

You may have noticed concrete barriers being installed along I-35 NEX Central as construction begins to ramp up. Due to the constrained (tight) work zones on this project, barriers are being heavily utilized to protect workers while present and to help guide traffic in construction zones. These barriers are constructed from reinforced concrete for strength and each 30' section weighs approximately 22,000 pounds.

Contact Us

Questions or Comments

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E-alert

Sign up for weekly lane closure notices and newsletters by emailing us at i35nexcentral@txdot.gov.

Project Information

www.i35nex.com

Scan here to access our website.



Don't miss an update! Please add this [email address](mailto:i35nexcentral@txdot.gov) to your address book.

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