



## I-35 Northeast Expansion Central CONSTRUCTION NEWS



### November 2023: Issue 13

#### In this issue

- 1 | Thanksgiving Travel: The Best and Worst Times
- 2 | Construction Update
- 3 | Active Construction Sites
- 4 | Anything But Boring
- 5 | Contact Us

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 and Loop 1604 W. Expected completion date is December 2027.

### Thanksgiving Travel: The Best and Worst Times



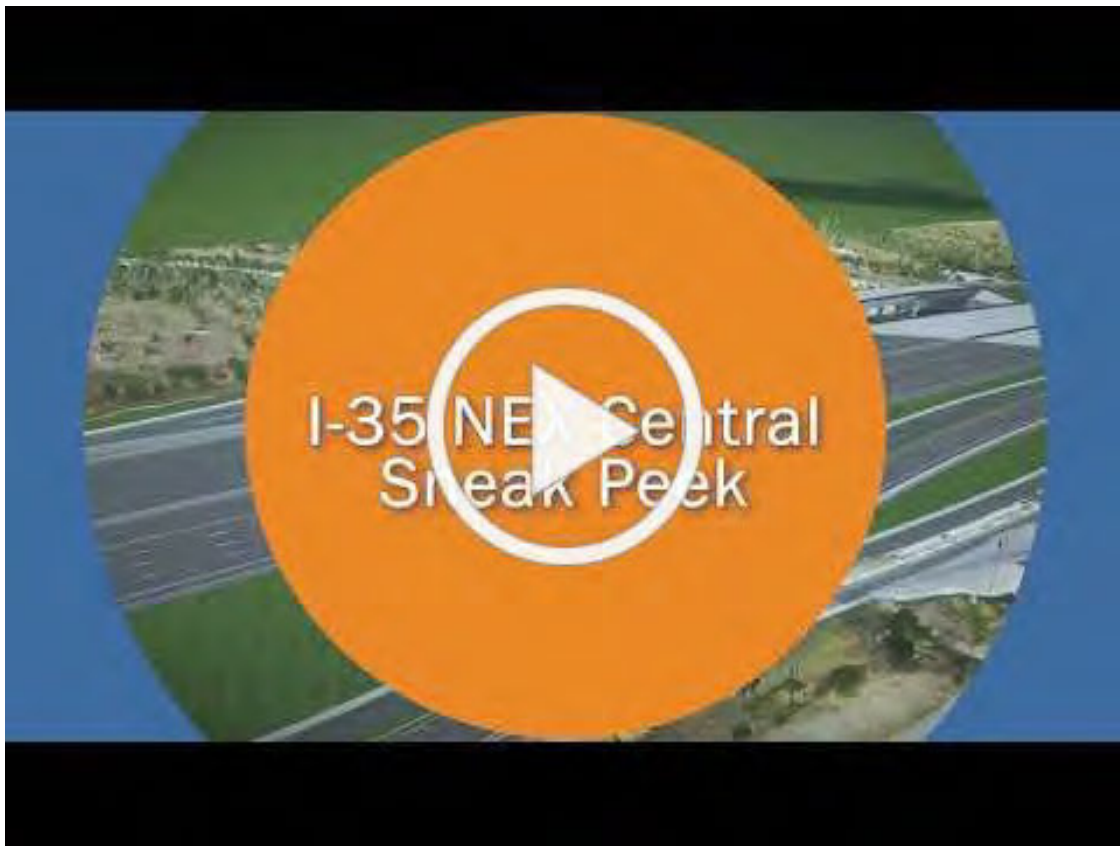
As Thanksgiving approaches, as many as 4 million Texans will hit the highways to be with family. Holiday travel is stressful enough without traffic and delays. If you're traveling the day before Thanksgiving, expect a lot of company on the road unless you leave early or late. The days after Thanksgiving will also be busy. To help you plan your trip better, AAA has suggested the best and worst times to be on the road.

On Wednesday, the best time to travel is before 8 a.m. and after 8 p.m. The worst times to head out on Thanksgiving Eve are between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

On Thanksgiving Day, you'll tackle more traffic if you're on the road between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Instead, try doing the drive before in the morning or after 6 p.m.

On your way back, the worst times to drive on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## Construction Update



*A virtual sneak peek at the elevated lanes of the I-35 NEX Central project.*

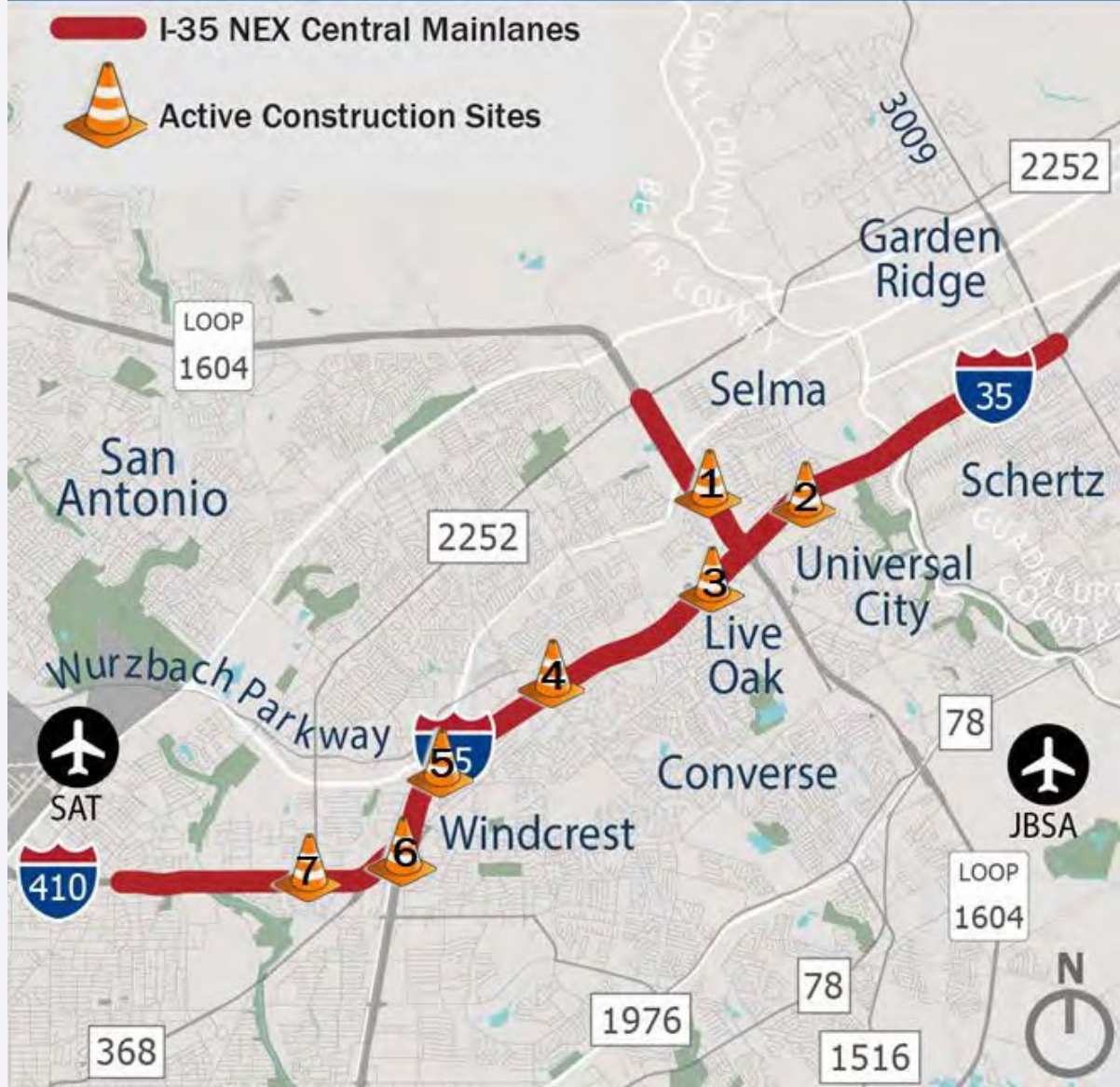
We are excited to present a sneak peek at what the I-35 NEX Central project will look like when complete. The images you see are created in a 3D reality mesh model video of the I-35 NEX Central project. A "3D reality mesh model" is a digital representation of an object, in this case, the elevated lanes of the I-35 NEX Central project, that is placed into a digital world of existing structures such as buildings, utility poles, signs, roads, and other assets along the project right of way.

## **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](http://www.i35nex.com). Please note construction preparation work, including placement of barriers, is also ongoing within the limits of the project.



## Active Construction Sites Now Through November 2023



1. Excavation of new lanes of Loop 1604. The Loop 1604 westbound bypass is closed for demolition of the bridge and the construction of a new bridge. Drilled shafts and column foundations work continues in the area of the I-35 and Loop 1604 interchange. Retaining wall construction is also taking place in that area. Overnight westbound frontage road closure of Loop 1604 from Gateway Boulevard to Gateway Place for setting caps.
2. Drilled shafts, column, and cap work continues on the northbound frontage road of I-35 from Olympia Parkway to Evans Road.
3. Bridge construction continues on southbound I-35 in the Pat Booker Road area. Long-term left lane closure of the southbound I-35 frontage road from McMorris Boulevard to IKEA-RBFCU Parkway for construction. Bridge foundations, column work, soil nail walls, and temporary road widening continue from I-35 Access Road near Shin Oak Drive to Judson Road.
4. Long-term closure of the left lane on northbound frontage road of I-35 from Judson Road to Toepperwein Road for drainage, column, and cap work.

Long-term closure of the left lane on southbound I-35 frontage road between Toepperwein Road and Judson Road for retaining wall, drilled shaft, column, and cap work.

5. Long-term alternating lane closure on the southbound frontage road of I-35 between Thousand Oaks Drive and Whirlwind Drive for roadway reconstruction, paving, and drilled shaft work.
6. Column construction continues at the I-35 and I-410 interchange. Drilled shaft work north of Walzem Road on the northbound and southbound side of I-35. Long-term closure on Fratt Road from I-35 to Austin Highway for drilled shaft, column, and cap work.
7. Drilled shaft work continues in the area of I-410 from Perrin Creek to Perrin Beitel.

## **Anything but Boring**





*Boring a tunnel under Loop 1604 to expand drainage capacity.*

The jack-and-bore process is a trenchless method that is used for installing horizontal underground utilities, such as culverts or pipes, without the need for traditional open-cut excavation. There is no road removal or extensive digging, which results in fewer delays and detours.

There are three jack-and-bore operations on the I-35 NEX Central project, which all take place between 20 and 40 feet under Loop 1604.

This technique involves two essential steps. First, a pit is excavated at the start and end points of the required bore. Second, a drilling machine is used to tunnel a hole between these two pits, into which the pipe is installed.

The two longest jack-and-bore tunnels will be approximately 400 feet long, roughly the length of 10 school buses. Each tunnel will be six feet in diameter and take about two weeks to complete. These are necessary to create new culverts to help with the drainage between the north and south portions of Loop 1604.

## Contact Us

### Questions or Comments

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### Project Information

[www.i35nex.com](http://www.i35nex.com)

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