



I-35 Northeast Expansion Central CONSTRUCTION NEWS



December 2023: Issue 14

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

Holiday Travel Safety Tips



Since 1981, December has been designated as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. Unfortunately, Texas has been leading the nation in fatal car accidents and wrong-way crashes since 2017. Therefore, it is more crucial than ever to ensure safety during the Christmas and New Year's travel season.

According to TxDOT, over one-fifth of traffic deaths during the holidays are caused by drunk drivers. From Dec. 1, 2022, to Jan. 2, 2023, over 47,773 traffic crashes occurred across Texas, resulting in 444 fatalities.

Take some precautions for a safe Christmas and New Year.

- Do not drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Pullover or switch drivers if feeling tired
- Ensure the driver and all passengers are wearing seat belts
- Eliminate distractions and do not use mobile devices while driving
- Move over and slow down for vehicles stopped on the side of the road
- If involved in a crash, move your vehicle to the side of the road whenever possible
- Report road hazards to local law enforcement
- Monitor weather/road conditions before and during travel
- Leave extra time to get to your destination.

Construction Update



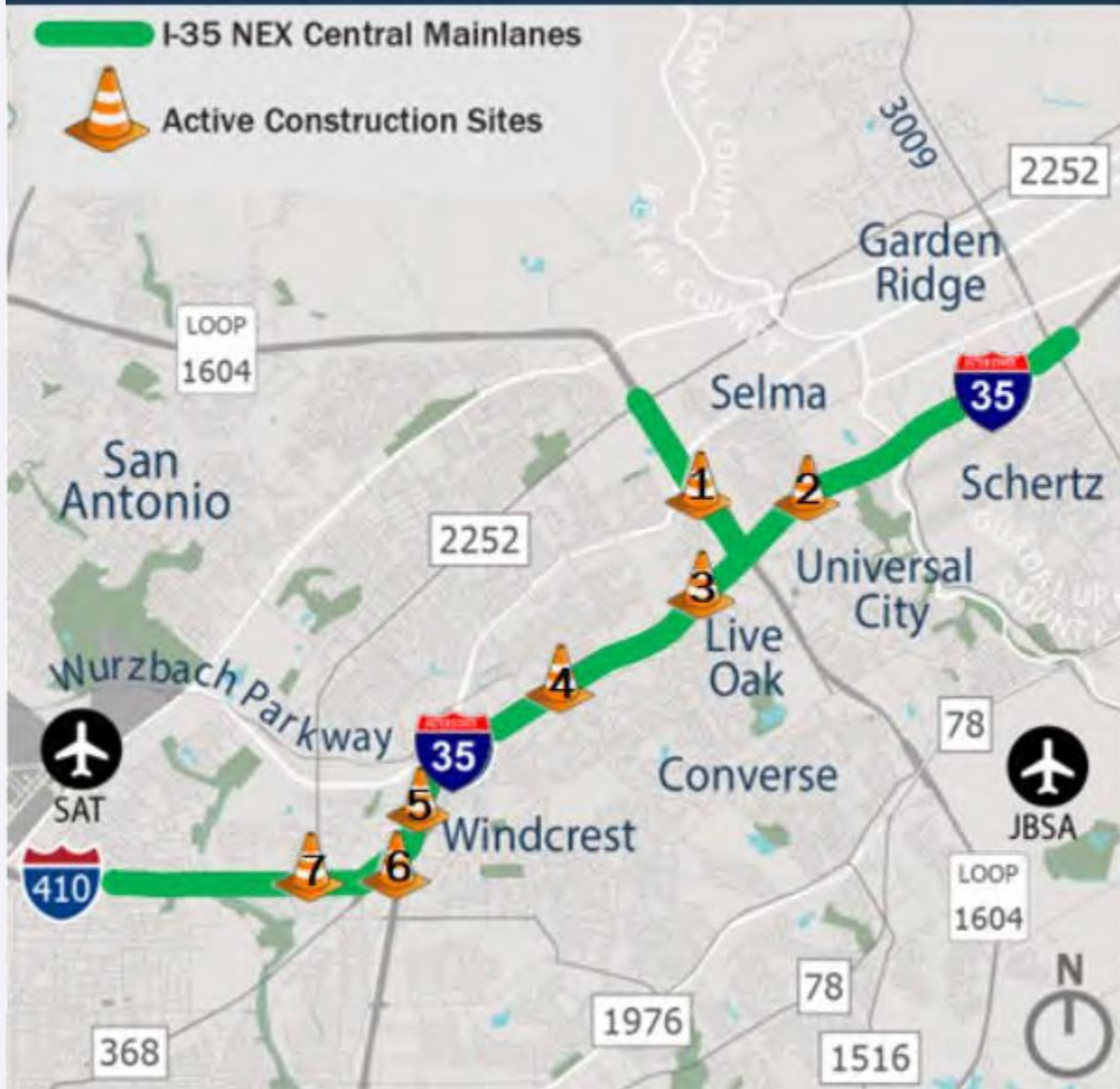
I-35 NEX Central project 2023 year-in-review video.

Look at how far we've come in 12 months! In January, we poured the first column of the I-35 NEX Central project on the southbound frontage road of I-35 near Farsight Drive. Since then, we have constructed over 220 columns. How many pounds of rebar have been used to make the bridge structures? How many drilled shafts have been excavated? Watch our 2023 year-in-review video to find out that information and more.

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.

Active Construction Sites Now Through December 2023



Excavation of new lanes of Loop 1604. The Loop 1604 westbound bypass is closed for the demolition of the existing 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.



Drilled shafts, column, and cap work continues on the northbound frontage road of I-35 from Olympia Parkway to Evans Road.



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 drilled shaft and column construction.



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. 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 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.



Beam setting and 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.



Column and column cap construction continues in the area of I-410 from Perrin Creek to Perrin Beitel.

Safely Speeding Up Bridge Construction



The first precast concrete column cap of the I-35 NEX Central project.

Did you know that Texas has over 55,000 bridges? As the owner of the nation's largest bridge inventory, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is always looking for innovative ways to safely speed up bridge construction. One such solution is the use of precast concrete column caps on the I-35 NEX Central project.

Precast concrete column caps are cast and cured off-site. They arrive at the construction site ready to be installed on top of the column, which accelerates construction and improves worker safety over traditional cast-in-place column caps. The concrete used for precast column caps undergoes more rigorous testing than cast-in-place concrete, making the structures extra strong and durable.

The use of precast column caps also improves worker safety by reducing the amount of work conducted off the ground, thereby limiting exposure to hazardous work environments. It also reduces the amount of time workers are exposed to heavily trafficked areas. Precast column caps require fewer workers than cast-in-place construction, which helps improve overall safety.

Contact Us

Questions or Comments

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