

freeway TODAY



Lubbock leaders turn dirt for freeway project

FREEWAY BRIEFS

■ TxDOT will build a wetland at Quaker Avenue and the freeway. The new 4.1 acre playa lake will be created to the north of the existing lake and will be lined with Randall Clay excavated from the existing site.

■ The "Windy Man" icon will be placed on the retaining walls at each interchange.

■ Granite Construction, Inc.—the contractor for the first phase of the Marsha Sharp Freeway—was also the contractor on the IH27 project.

Local dignitaries turned the first shovel of dirt recently on the long-awaited Marsha Sharp Freeway project. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place in May at West Loop 289 and the Brownfield Highway, the location of the first construction project.

City and county officials, Texas Tech University and the Chamber of Commerce joined the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to kick off the \$46.5 million project, the first of four construction phases. Granite Construction, Inc. was awarded the bid in December.

Said Mayor Marc McDougal, "I think everyone is excited to get this long-awaited transportation project off the ground,

and I feel it is most appropriate that the freeway is named after an individual of Marsha's stature."

The Lubbock City Council passed an ordinance in October of 2000 officially naming the freeway. The highway is named the Marsha Sharp Freeway in honor of the Texas Tech University Lady Raider's basketball coach who led the women's team to a national championship in 1993.





marsha sharp freeway

Lubbock's East/West Access



Top left photo, Steve Warren, TxDOT director of transportation planning and development, presents Lady Raiders Head Coach Marsha Sharp, a framed rendering of the Texas Tech portion of the Marsha Sharp Freeway. Right top photo, TxDOT and Granite Construction, Inc. employees turn the dirt on the first construction site. Middle photo, local dignitaries gather to celebrate the kick off of the first phase of the Marsha Sharp Freeway project. Bottom photo, TxDOT District Engineer Randy Hopmann poses with former mayor Windy Sitton (left) and Lady Raiders Head Coach Marsha Sharp.

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Granite sets barricades on freeway project

Granite Construction, Inc. employees are building detours and setting barricades in preparation for construction on the first phase of the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) kicked off the \$46.5 million construction project at a recent groundbreaking. This is the first of four phases for the \$256 million freeway scheduled for completion sometime after 2010.

The first phase includes widening the West Loop from four to six lanes from 34th Street to Slide Rd., constructing the 50th Street overpass, widening frontage roads on the West Loop from 34th Street to Slide Road, and building frontage roads along US 62/82 from Chicago Avenue to a point about one half mile outside the loop.

Contractors started work recently at 34th Street and West Loop 289. Work during the first eleven months includes building the 34th Street turnarounds and widening frontage roads on the West Loop.

In addition to setting barricades, contractors are also building a detour on the Loop main lanes from north of 34th Street to south of 34th in preparation for widening the 34th Street bridge. Traffic will be detoured from the southbound to the northbound lanes for the first few months. Contractors are also working on the Spur 327 bridge that will connect the Loop frontage road from north of the Spur to Slide Road.

The public should expect lane closures and detours for the next two and a half years. Motorists are encouraged to find an alternate route.



Top and middle photo, Granite Construction Company builds detours in preparation for bridge work at 34th Street and West Loop 289. Bottom photo, city employees take care of utilities off the West Loop access road.