



NEWS RELEASE

AUSTIN DISTRICT

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TxDOT BREAKS GROUND ON INNOVATIVE INTERSECTION PROJECT AT I-35 AND PARMER LANE



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Third diverging diamond intersection to be constructed in the Austin metro

July 24, 2019

AUSTIN — Another diverging diamond intersection (DDI) is coming to Travis County, following a groundbreaking ceremony today for the I-35 at Parmer Lane project. The Texas Department of Transportation was joined by Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., State Senator Kirk Watson's office, State Representative Celia Israel and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Executive Director Ashby Johnson, to officially kick off construction for the \$24.6 million project.

"The I-35 at Parmer Lane project is part of the [Texas Clear Lanes](#) congestion relief initiative, which is designed to remedy congestion at some of our biggest choke points around the state," said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. "These improvements are anticipated to reduce delays on the north and southbound I-35 frontage roads at Parmer Lane by more than 80%."

A diverging diamond intersection temporarily shifts traffic to the left side of the road, allowing through-traffic and left-turning traffic to proceed through the intersection simultaneously. This eliminates the need for left-turn arrows. This type of intersection has proven to decrease the number and severity of crashes by reducing the number of potential conflict points between cross-traffic and left-turn movements.

"This project is located in the heart of my district, and I want to thank Chairman Bugg and TxDOT for prioritizing these improvements at Parmer Lane," said State Representative Celia Israel. "This will improve commute times while increasing safety and I'm pleased to see construction begin."

In addition to constructing the DDI, the I-35 at Parmer Lane project adds a southbound intersection bypass lane, reconstructs the northbound bypass lane along with entrance and exit ramps, and enhances bicycle and pedestrian paths. The project also includes additional turn lanes at the intersection of Parmer Lane and North Lamar Boulevard.

"I-35 serves as the backbone of our local, regional and national transportation network," said TxDOT Austin District Engineer Tucker Ferguson. "As our population continues to grow, highway congestion is only going to get worse. Innovative intersection designs, like the DDI being constructed at Parmer Lane, provide significant travel time benefits with limited construction interruption at a relatively low cost."

The project is also funded by CAMPO. "The community tells us regularly that getting people moving on I-35 is a top priority," said CAMPO Executive Director Ashby Johnson. "This is the 15th Mobility35 project to break ground; it's exciting to see our hard work and planning come to fruition."



The I-35 at Parmer Lane project is anticipated to be complete mid-2021, weather permitting. The contractor is James Construction Group.

To learn more about this project and others under construction, visit www.My35Construction.org.

For media inquiries, contact Diann.Hodges@txdot.gov or (512) 832-7027.

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