

Piedmont Travel Alert; I-40-I-77 Interchange

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Saturday, 22 September 2012 11:17

If your travels take you to the Statesville area, note that work has started to rebuild the intersection of Interstates 77 and 40, with much work in the surrounding corridor. On that, overnight lane closures will take place starting Monday on Interstate 40 East in Statesville between mile markers 150 and 152 starting, running until the morning of Saturday, Sept. 29 as part of the project. The lane closures will be in place nightly from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Thursday nights, and from 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28 until 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29. N.C. Department of transportation contractor Zachry Construction Corp. of San Antonio, Texas will mill and add asphalt to the shoulders along I-40 East. This work is being done to support traffic shifts onto the shoulders when lane closures are necessary during the project. The \$89.1 million project must be completed by March 14, 2017. The project includes:

- Constructing a multi-level interchange of the two interstates;
- Widening I-40 from four to six lanes from N.C. 115 to Old Mocksville Road;
- Constructing parallel lanes on I-40 that will allow vehicles to access U.S. 21, as well as access I-40 from U.S. 21, without disrupting the flow of traffic;
- Reconstructing U.S. 21 from just north of Glenway Drive to BB&T on Sullivan Road south of I-40, with a diverging diamond interchange at I-40;
- Reconstructing the bridge on Radio Road;
- Building a new bridge over U.S. 21 and Fourth Creek;
- Building a new bridge from Sunset Hill Road to Gaither Road; and
- Closing the existing interchange at Old U.S. 64.

The Statesville interchange of I-40/77 was built in late 1960s. The current configuration does not meet today's design guidelines, and the interchange has outlived its service life.

Originally, the traffic projections through the area were about 5,000 vehicles per day. Today, the traffic on both interstates through the area is about 70,000 vehicles per day, and is projected to grow to about 110,000 vehicles per day in 2035.