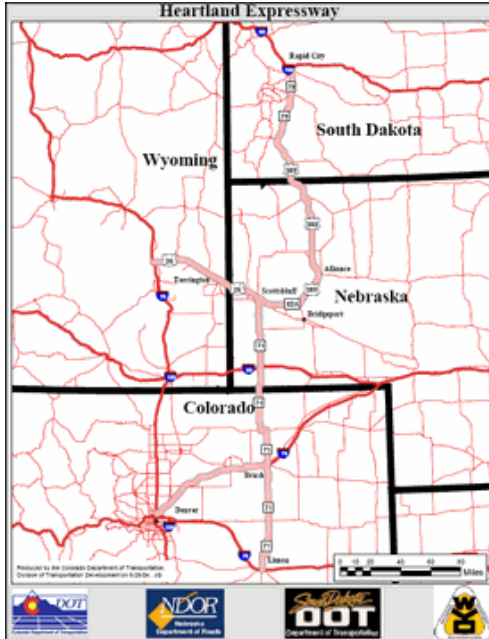




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(S.D.)-South Dakota Continues Heartland Expressway Roadwork



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 05/22/2013 10:21 AM

(Oelrichs)-Travelers heading north of Chadron on Highway 385 will be facing some road construction in the next few months when they cross the border into South Dakota. The South Dakota Department of Transportation is advising motorists that crews will begin paving operations on the final phase of the Heartland Expressway Project on Highway 385 in Fall River County today (Wednesday).

Paving operations will begin one-half mile north of Oelrichs on the new northbound two-lane highway and move south for four miles. Highway 385 traffic will be detoured from one-half mile north of Oelrichs, through the intersection of Highways 385 and 18, to three-quarters of a mile south of Oelrichs. A portion of the detour is on gravel with a 45 mph speed limit during working hours and 55 mph during off-hours. There is a 12-foot width restriction through the detour.

There will be three entrances into Oelrichs during this time. The first will be on the north end of Oelrichs, turn east at the intersection of Highways 385 and 18, drive one-half mile east on Highway 18, then turn south on Main Street. The second will be on the west side of Oelrichs, turn east on 4th Street or at "The Office" cafe. This will be the only west entrance into Oelrichs during concrete paving operations from May 22 to mid-July. The third will be on the south side of Oelrichs, turn east on Milligan Road, drive one-quarter mile east to the intersection of Milligan Road and Old Highway 79, and then turn north onto Old Highway 79 for one-quarter mile.

The prime contractor on this \$25.2 million project is Loiseau Construction, Inc. of Flandreau. More information on the project can be obtained by calling Rich Zacher at the Custer Area office at 605-673-4948.

Website for photos & updates: www.sddot.com/travelers/projects/hwy385/Default.aspx

Work will also begin farther north next week. Work on the eastbound bridge on Highway 18 near Maverick Junction will begin next Tuesday. The bridge is located on Highway 18, south of Maverick Junction in Fall River County and over the Cheyenne River.

Work involves a concrete overlay, bridge rail replacement, painting, berm repair, guardrail improvements, and other miscellaneous items. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane on the bridge with a 10-foot width restriction and a reduced speed limit of 45 mph.

The prime contractor on this \$1.9 million project is Heavy Constructors, Inc. of Rapid City. The overall completion date is Nov. 15, 2013. For more information on this project, contact Jason Baker with the South Dakota Department of Transportation at 605-673-4948.

For complete road construction information, visit www.safetravelusa.com or dial 511.

(Information courtesy South Dakota Department of Transportation)