



## PRESS RELEASE

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### MAJOR INTERSTATE TRAFFIC SHIFT IN COUNCIL BLUFFS NEXT WEEK

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa — March 21, 2019 – The I-80 westbound/I-29 northbound segment of the Dual, Divided Freeway is expected to open to traffic on Wednesday, March 27, weather permitting. Several overnight closures and detours will be in place in the evenings before the traffic shift occurs.

#### Expected Closures - Sunday, March 24:

- » I-80 westbound is expected to be closed at Exit 4, I-29 southbound, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. I-80 westbound and I-29 northbound will use I-80 Express westbound and will not have access to South Expressway, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, or I-29 northbound during the closure. I-29 northbound will follow I-80 westbound Express detour and continue to Exit 454, 13<sup>th</sup> Street, where drivers can turn around and use Exit 1a, I-29 northbound.
- » The I-29 southbound exit to I-80 westbound, Exit 51, is expected to be closed from 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Drivers should continue on I-29 southbound to Exit 52, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, and follow the detour to I-80 westbound.
- » Drivers accessing I-80 westbound/I-29 northbound between 9:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and South Expressway will need to follow the detour to Highway 275/Veterans Memorial Bridge Road.

#### Expected Closures - Monday, March 25:

- » I-80 westbound will be closed at Exit 4, I-29 southbound, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. I-80 westbound and I-29 northbound will use I-80 Express westbound and will not have access to South Expressway, 24<sup>th</sup> Street, or I-29 northbound during the closure. I-29 northbound will follow I-80 westbound Express detour and continue to Exit 454, 13<sup>th</sup> Street, where drivers can turn around and use Exit 1a, I-29 northbound.
- » Drivers accessing I-80 westbound/I-29 northbound between 9:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and South Expressway will need to follow the detour to Nebraska Avenue and I-29.

#### Expected Closures - Tuesday, March 26:

- » The 24<sup>th</sup> Street on-ramp to I-80 westbound/I-29 northbound will remain closed for the day.
- » At the West System Interchange, I-80 westbound drivers destined for Omaha or beyond, will need to use the right lanes to Exit 51, I-80 westbound. I-29 northbound drivers will use the left lanes to continue on I-29 northbound.



- » I-80 westbound will be closed at Exit 4, I-29 southbound, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Drivers should follow the detour to U.S. 275/IA 92, where drivers can turn around and use I-29 northbound.

By Wednesday morning, March 27, drivers will be able to travel on newly constructed I-80 Express westbound and I-29 northbound/I-80 westbound Local Dual, Divided Freeway. This design physically separates through traffic on I-80 from local traffic on I-29 destined for Council Bluffs. Drivers wanting to travel within Council Bluffs will choose Local lanes to access exits. If drivers accidentally choose Express lanes and need to go back to a Council Bluffs exit, drivers can exit at 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha, Nebraska and turn around.

Drivers should note that I-80 Express westbound traffic destined for I-29 northbound (Exit 1) will not be able to access the exit until the permanent pavement is constructed in approximately three months. In the meantime, drivers should use I-29 northbound/I-80 westbound Local lanes.

The Iowa DOT encourages motorists to follow signs and use caution while becoming accustomed to the traffic shift. An online meeting was developed at [www.CouncilBluffsInterstate.IowaDOT.gov](http://www.CouncilBluffsInterstate.IowaDOT.gov) to explain the upcoming changes and impacts to travelers and local businesses in the area.

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Iowa DOT is in the process of reconstructing I-80, I-29 and I-480 in the Council Bluffs metropolitan area as part of the Council Bluffs Interstate Improvement Program. This comprehensive interstate redesign, will modernize the highway system and improve mobility and safety of approximately 18 miles of interstate.

Iowa DOT is working hard to keep the public informed of construction impacts and will actively seek opportunities to update the public regarding the project. For more information about the projects or to sign up for alerts, visit the program website at [www.CouncilBluffsInterstate.IowaDOT.gov](http://www.CouncilBluffsInterstate.IowaDOT.gov). You can also contact the program office at 712-216-3339 or [info@CouncilBluffsInterstate.com](mailto:info@CouncilBluffsInterstate.com).

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