

Phase 3 construction on I-40 east of Gallup

Written by Staff Reports

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FNF Construction started work on Phase 3 of roadway improvements on I-40 east of Gallup between milepost 37.3 and milepost 40.3 on Oct. 5.

Delane Baros, public information officer for New Mexico Dept. of Transportation Dist. 6, explained that Phase 1 of the project consisted of rehabilitation on the bridge and ramp extensions, while in Phase 2, workers built a climbing lane for eastbound traffic coming out of the refinery, along with road construction.

Phase 3, she told the *Gallup Sun* Oct. 8, will begin with building crossovers, to prepare roadway reconstruction for the spring of 2021. "When they do that, they will switch traffic over and do one side at a time."

Baros did not know which side of the road will be blocked first.

Fall 2020 construction activities will include building temporary median crossovers in three locations, along with milling and filling of the center median and outside shoulders.

Then there will be heavy trucks entering and leaving the construction zone and lane closures in both directions, so drivers heading east and west on I-40 in the area should expect delays and will need to use extra caution in the construction zone.

The first portion of Phase 3, which began Oct. 5, is expected to last through early November with work hours extending from 7 am-5 pm.

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In early November the project will go into winter suspension, to begin again in late March 2021.

Construction is expected to be completed in late summer or early fall of 2021.