

## Braided ramps, I-10 Airway to Viscount Closures

Jennifer Wright, Public Affairs Officer, Tx-DOT El Paso

Here's our release, closures follow: Dec. 18, 2017 EL PASO - A new Texas Department of Transportation project aimed at improving eastside mall traffic will get started with the New Year. The Braided Ramps project on Interstate 10 westbound from Viscount to Airway will improve capacity, operation, circulation and safety along I-10. "This construction is another component of our operational improvements along IH-10," said TxDOT District Engineer Bob Bielek, DPA, P.E. "These particular improvements are significant in making access to highly trafficked shopping areas safer." The proposed project includes: ramp reconfigurations and frontage road improvements; intersection improvements at Airway Boulevard, Hawkins Boulevard, and Viscount Boulevard; conversion of westbound entrance and exit ramps between Hawkins and Viscount boulevards to braided ramps and the addition of an auxiliary lane to westbound I-10 main lanes between Airway and Viscount boulevards. The project also includes new pavement markings, signs, illumination and computerized transportation management [system](#). Impact on traffic is expected to be minimal as the work will be in progress behind barriers in the area. Motorists should take extra caution around work crews and be aware the shoulder on the road will not be accessible for the duration of the project. All proposed work is anticipated to occur within the existing TxDOT right of way and would not result in commercial or residential [displacements](#). Construction crews working on the \$16 million-dollar project will start work after the holiday season on January 2, 2018 and will continue until November. Here are the closures:

**Fountains Braided Ramp Project**  
Sunday, Jan. 7 - Thursday, Jan. 11 (complete closure) 9 p.m. - 5 a.m. (overnight)\* IH-10 westbound between Yarbrough overpass to Airway overpass\* Yarbrough overpass to Airway overpass all entrance and exit ramps\* Crews will be placing concrete barriers on right shoulder  
Sunday, Jan. 7 - Thursday, Jan. 11 9 p.m. - 5 a.m. (overnight)\* Gateway West Boulevard left lane closure between Viscount Boulevard to Airway Boulevard\* Viscount Boulevard to Airway Boulevard all entrance and exit ramps\* Crews will be placing concrete barriers on left shoulder  
Until further notice\* Gateway East reduced to one lane between Airway Boulevard and Hawkins Boulevard\* Gateway West reduced to one lane between Viscount Boulevard and Hawkins Boulevard  
Closed until further notice\* IH-10 eastbound Hawkins exit ramp\* IH-10 westbound Hawkins exit ramp

Here is the link to the video tour that shows the project best: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q00L-JHf1s0&feature=youtu.be> For more information you can go to [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov) and search "I-10 Airway to Viscount" (without quotes). Due to an internal communication error, we did not forewarn you that the Hawkins eastbound exit ramp off I-10 closed Jan. 3, and will remain closed for five months. To all surprised drivers, we apologize. Please use Geronimo (less likely to back up) or Airway (more direct), or go on past both malls and use the Viscount exit and make a U-turn, or go up Viscount and come in the back way. You can continue along the gateways except, guess what! They're going to have left lane closures starting Sunday (Jan. 7). I really recommend you find your own clever [way](#). As of Tuesday night, the westbound Hawkins exit is also closing.

This is inconvenient, but with good reason: we are working to get this project finished in time to open by next holiday shopping season. In summary: both Hawkins exits are closed. Both Gateways will be reduced to one lane for some distance approaching to [Hawkins.Get](#) to know Viscount. This will be a hard for a while, but worth it in the [end.](#) Please let me know if you need more info. Until next month! Safe Travels/Happy Trails, -Jennifer Wright