



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 25, 2010

**Essen Lane Entrance Ramp Closure on I-12 Westbound**

**Baton Rouge**—The following closure is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 at 8 p.m.:

- The westbound I-12 entrance ramp at Essen Lane will be closed for approximately 15 minutes. This closure is necessary for installation of the mast arm for the ramp meter.

In all, ramp meters will be placed at 16 on-ramps along Interstate 12 between Essen Lane and the Walker/LA 447 interchanges. The installation work begins at Essen Lane and continues east.

Westbound ramp meters will be activated first, then eastbound ramp meters, with Range and O'Neal eastbound being last. Prior to activation, the signal will be covered for several days and a Variable Message Sign (VMS) will notify motorists of the upcoming change.

The ramp meters will operate exclusively during peak travel times, 6-10 a.m. for westbound on-ramps and 2-7 p.m. for eastbound on-ramps, and during special events or incidents.

After the Essen Lane ramp meters are functioning, future installations will be announced to the public prior to activation, and drivers will notice the equipment being installed.

Ramp meters will help reduce congestion, provide a safer merge for vehicles entering the interstate travel lanes, improve travel time reliability and complement the I-12 widening. Once activated, the ramp meter signals will stop vehicles for about four seconds on the on-ramp and allow drivers to access the interstate in an orderly and evenly-spaced fashion, sometimes described as a "zipper effect."

DOTD is offering to meet with interested groups and/or make presentations regarding the ramp meter system or the current Interstate 10/12 widening projects that are part of the Geaux Wider program. For more information on this project, visit [www.GeauxWider.com](http://www.GeauxWider.com) or call Louisiana DOTD Customer Service at 1-877-4LA-DOTD (452-3683) 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The public may also access updated information on Facebook ([Facebook.com/GeauxWider1](https://www.facebook.com/GeauxWider1)) and Twitter ([Twitter.com/GeauxWider](https://twitter.com/GeauxWider)).

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