



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2011

### **I-12 Westbound Traffic Lanes to Shift**

*Traffic to Shift to Newly Constructed Westbound Lanes*

**Baton Rouge**— Weather permitting, the traffic lanes on I-12 westbound between Juban Road and O’Neal Lane will be shifted on Tuesday, September 6 beginning at 8 p.m. Motorists will experience a minor shift to the left just west of Juban Road. After crossing the 4-H Club Road overpass, the existing major shift to the left will be eliminated and motorists will continue traveling straight onto the newly completed westbound lanes.

During the night of September 6 and morning of September 7, motorists can expect intermittent closures of the Juban Road and Range Avenue on- and off-ramps.

On Wednesday, September 7, the Range Avenue on-ramp to I-12 westbound will be closed between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. so crews can install temporary barriers and pavement markings. Upon reopening, the Range Avenue ramp will be reduced to one lane due to reconstruction of the existing roadway. This configuration will remain in place until near the end of the year. The lane reduction will occur 1,000 feet past the ramp meter. The ramp meter will continue to operate, but will automatically turn off if traffic backs up to Range.

In the days following the I-12 westbound lane shift, the eastbound lanes of I-12 will shift to the new westbound Amite River Bridge. This will allow construction crews to remove the old eastbound bridge and continue widening the new eastbound bridge to three lanes.

To detour around these areas, motorists may exit I-12 westbound at Walker South Road/LA 447 (Exit 15) and travel north to Florida Boulevard. Then, turn left on Florida Boulevard and travel west to Old Hammond Highway. Turn left on Old Hammond Highway and travel west to O’Neal Lane, where a left turn allows drivers to travel south and reconnect with I-12.

Motorists are urged to use extreme caution in construction zones and to obey all posted speed limits.

Media members who need access to the interstate work zones to obtain photos or video must first contact the Geaux Wider team at (225) 906-1448. For safety reasons, no unscheduled or unaccompanied visits are permitted.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development appreciates the patience of drivers during this construction program. Everyone is reminded to exercise caution, and to obey the lower posted speed limits and other warning signs in the work zones.

The Geaux Wider program is a multi-year construction initiative designed to increase capacity, improve safety and enhance mobility on Interstates 10 and 12 in East Baton Rouge and Livingston Parishes.

The following interstate segments are being widened to six lanes under the Geaux Wider program:

- Interstate 10, from the I-10/12 split to Siegen Lane.
- Interstate 10, from the Siegen Lane interchange to Highland Road.
- Interstate 12, from the O'Neal Lane interchange to Pete's Highway.
- Interstate 12 eastbound, from Pete's Highway to Juban Road.

The completion date for the entire program is tentatively scheduled for 2013. For more information, contact Louisiana DOTD Customer Service at 1-877-4LADOTD (3683) or visit [www.GeauxWider.com](http://www.GeauxWider.com).

###