This document is a compilation of the media advisories that were released for the 1st Division during the year of 2014 by ALDOT due to road construction, asphalt pavement, guardrail repairs, geotechnical investigations, bridge inspections and/or repairs, concrete barrier repairs, debris cleanup, etc. For more information on any of the advisories please contact the Media & Community Relations Department.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 3, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Road/Ramp Closures on I-565 EB Exit 7 Ramp and Madison Boulevard Necessary During New I-565 Interchange Construction Project

MADISON – Weather permitting, the Exit 7 ramp of Interstate 565 East and a portion of Madison Boulevard west of County Line Road will be closed beginning Wednesday, Jan 15, for construction of the new I-565 interchange at County Road 3 (County Line Road) in Madison.

This closure is expected to be in place for approximately nine months. During construction, motorists can expect reduced work zone speed limits, ramp/lane/shoulder closures and service road closures.

Construction of the new interchange, including building additional ramps to the existing underpass and relocating a portion of State Route 20 (Madison Boulevard), is expected to be completed in May 2015.

When completed, the project will provide motorists full access to/from I-565 to Madison Boulevard and County Line Road. Additionally, drivers in the vicinity of the City of Madison and Limestone and Madison counties will be afforded another access point in addition to the Wall Triana Highway which currently experiences very heavy traffic.

Motorists are requested to consider using alternate routes, adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area. ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this construction to improve Alabama’s roadways.

For Road Conditions information, visit www.dot.state.al.us.

ALDOT’s mission is to provide a safe, efficient, environmentally- and economically-sound transportation network across Alabama.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 17, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

COOSA RIVER BRIDGE ON U.S. HIGHWAY 78 CLOSED NEXT WEEK
Bridge will be Closed for Inspection Tuesday and Wednesday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY – Weather permitting, the U.S. Highway 78 Bridge over the Coosa River at the St. Clair/Talladega counties line will be closed for inspection Tuesday-Friday, Jan. 21-24. The closure will be in place between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day.

Vehicles may detour onto I-20 during the inspection work.

Motorists are requested to consider using alternate routes, adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area. ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this construction to improve Alabama’s roadways.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 24, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

STATE ROUTE 65 AT U.S. 72 CLOSED WEDNESDAY NEAR PAINT ROCK
Route Temporarily Closed for Railroad Track Repairs

JACKSON COUNTY, Ala. – Weather permitting, State Route 65 at the U.S. Highway 72 intersection near Paint Rock, in Jackson County will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 29 by Norfolk Southern for railroad track repairs. Access to State Route 65 to and from U.S. Highway 72 at this location will be blocked between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Regular traffic must detour during the closure time. Emergency vehicles, such as fire and ambulance, will be allowed to use the crossing for emergencies only.

The signed detour is as follows:

- For State Route 65 North (from U.S. 72) – Take U.S. 72 East to State Route 79 North to State Route 146 West.
- For State Route 65 South (to U.S. 72) – Take State Route 65 North to State Route 146 East to State Route 79 South to U.S. 72 West.

During the closure, travel messages will be broadcast on Highway Advisory Radio on frequency 1650 AM.

Motorists must use alternate routes and are urged to adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area. ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this construction to improve Alabama’s roadways.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 31, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

STATE ROUTE 65 AT U.S. 72 CLOSED WEDNESDAY NEAR PAINT ROCK
Route Temporarily Closed for Railroad Track Repairs

JACKSON COUNTY, Ala. – Weather permitting, State Route 65 at the U.S. Highway 72 intersection near Paint Rock, in Jackson County will be temporarily closed Wednesday, Feb. 5 by Norfolk Southern for railroad track repairs.

Access to State Route 65 to and from U.S. Highway 72 at this location will be blocked between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Regular traffic must detour during this closure time. Emergency vehicles, such as fire and ambulance, will be allowed to use the crossing for emergencies only.

The signed detour is as follows:

- For State Route 65 North (from U.S. 72) – Take U.S. 72 East to State Route 79 North to State Route 146 West.
- For State Route 65 South (to U.S. 72) – Take State Route 65 North to State Route 146 East to State Route 79 South to U.S. 72 West.

One-lane access at the crossing to State Route 65 to and from U.S. Highway 72 will be allowed between 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Motorists will be directed by flaggers.

During the closure, travel messages will be broadcast on Highway Advisory Radio on frequency 1650 AM.

Motorists must use alternate routes and are urged to adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area. ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this construction to improve Alabama’s roadways.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Feb. 24, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Evening Lane Closures on I-565 at Exit 7 Next Week  
As the I-565/County Line Road Interchange Construction Project Continues

MADISON – Weather permitting, there will be lane closures on I-565 North and South at Exit 7 beginning Monday, Feb. 24 through Tuesday, March 4 as part of the I-565 interchange at County Road 3 (County Line Road) construction project in Madison. The lane closures will be in place between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sundays-Thursdays and between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., Friday and Saturday.

Motorists can expect delays and are requested to consider using alternate routes, adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area.

Construction of the new interchange, including building additional ramps to the existing underpass and relocating a portion of State Route 20 (Madison Boulevard), is expected to be completed in May 2015.

For Road Conditions information, visit www.dot.state.al.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

B.B. Comer Bridge Lanes Reopen Ahead of Schedule
Normal Traffic Flow Resumes

JACKSON COUNTY, Ala. – Normal traffic flow has been restored on the B.B. Comer Bridge which carries the southbound traffic of State Route 35.

During the annual B.B. Comer bridge inspection, the southbound lanes over the bridge had been detoured to a single northbound lane on State Route 35 on the Bob Jones Bridge. The two-way traffic pattern was expected to remain in place until Friday, March 28. However, ALDOT crews worked expediently to complete the inspection and return traffic flow to normal ahead of schedule.

ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this project to improve Alabama’s roadways.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Southbound Traffic on SR 69 Diverted to Northbound Lanes Next Week Creating Two-Way Traffic on the Warrenton Causeway

MARSHALL COUNTY, Ala. – Weather permitting, beginning Monday, March 31 at 7 a.m., the southbound lanes of State Route 69 (between mile markers 275-277) on the north end of the Warrenton Causeway Bridge in Guntersville, will be diverted to the northbound lanes with one lane of traffic traveling in each direction. Traffic is being diverted to make bridge approach repairs.

This traffic control, expected to last five days until Friday, April 4 at 5 p.m., will be continuous until the work is complete. The lanes will NOT reopen during overnight hours.

Motorists are requested to consider using alternate routes, adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area. ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this construction to improve Alabama’s roadways.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 2, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Traffic Shift As the I-565/County Line Road Interchange Construction Project Continues

MADISON – Weather permitting, beginning Monday, May 5 for approximately 2 months traffic on the Madison Blvd. westbound lanes will merge with the current eastbound lanes of Madison Blvd. This change will be east of County Line Road. During this time, westbound traffic will not have the right turn lane onto County Line Road. The traffic will have to stop for the red light before turning right.

Motorists can expect delays and are requested to consider using alternate routes, adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area.

Construction of the new interchange, including building additional ramps to the existing underpass and relocating a portion of State Route 20 (Madison Boulevard), is expected to be completed in May 2015.

For Road Conditions information, visit www.dot.state.al.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

ALDOT I-65 Hurricane Evacuation Exercise is Thursday, May 22

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Transportation will conduct its annual rehearsal of the plan that helped safely evacuate the Gulf Coast during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Dennis in 2005.

On Thursday, May 22, around 200 ALDOT workers and a contingency of state troopers and Alabama National Guard personnel will be positioned along I-65 between Baldwin County and Montgomery to simulate the activity associated with reversing I-65 traffic during an emergency.

Since 2000, ALDOT annually conducts rehearsals of its plan to reverse southbound traffic on Interstate 65 to allow four northward flowing lanes to evacuate the Gulf Coast. The term “contraflow” describes the condition when an interstate highway’s lanes carry traffic in the opposite direction for an evacuation (for instance, when I-65’s southbound lanes carry northbound traffic).

Alabama in 1999 developed a hurricane evacuation plan to reverse traffic on I-65’s southbound lanes after Hurricane Floyd hit the East Coast. Planning and annual rehearsals since spring 2000 made Alabama’s lane reversals during Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis a success, helping to evacuate the Gulf Coast without any hurricane-related loss of life.

The plan for reversing I-65 traffic requires 200 Department of Transportation employees, about 100 state troopers, and additional personnel from state and local emergency management and local law enforcement agencies.

The rehearsal simulates lane reversal activities that may occur during a real hurricane evacuation and provides an opportunity to practice the dozens of steps required, and to fine tune the process. Personnel will pre-position themselves and their equipment at 24 assigned checkpoints, including 21 interchanges, along I-65 between the initial crossover point south of State Road 225 in Mobile County and the north terminus points in Montgomery.
Traffic will not be reversed or detoured anywhere along I-65 during the reverse lane training exercise, but every portion of the plan will be simulated.

Media must contact ALDOT’s Media and Communications Bureau to coordinate coverage of the exercise.
ALDOT’s mission is to provide a safe, efficient, environmentally sound transportation network across Alabama. For further information, visit www.dot.state.al.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2014

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Traffic on SR 35 North Will Be Channeled to One Lane from MP 46.17 to MP 47.70, in Jackson County

JACKSON COUNTY – Weather permitting, beginning Wednesday, June 25 at 12 p.m., State Route 35 northbound traffic from milepost 46.17 to milepost 47.70 will be channelized to one lane in order to pump concrete to the new bridge that is currently under construction.

This traffic scheme will remain in effect for approximately 24 hours and construction will operate around the clock until the pour is complete. Appropriate signage and traffic control devices will be in place during this period and motorists are urged to use caution in this area.

The south traffic flow should not be affected.

Motorists are requested to consider using alternate routes, adjust arrival/departure times, observe work zone speed limits and other work zone signs, and use extreme caution in this area. ALDOT thanks motorists for their patience during this construction to improve Alabama’s roadways.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

Bridge in Pell City Expected to Open Soon

Pell City – The Alabama Department of Transportation’s project to replace the U.S. Highway 78 bridge over Wolf Creek is expected to be completed no later than early to mid-September.

The project area is located northwest of Pell City. Crews are presently laying a crushed aggregate that will serve as a base layer for asphalt paving on the approaches to the new bridge. Bridge rails and slabs at the end of each set of bridge railing will be completed during the next few weeks prior to the new bridge opening. Officials will open the bridge in late August if all paving, railing, end slabs and lane striping are completed.

The project represents a $1.5 million investment in St. Clair County, replacing a bridge that was more than 50 years old. Work is presently within the timeframe allowed under ALDOT’s contract with its contractor, McInnis Construction of Montgomery.

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