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## **I-77 EXPRESS LANES CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN MID-NOVEMBER 2015**

**Charlotte, N.C. (November 12, 2015)** – I-77 Mobility Partners today announced that construction of the I-77 Express Lanes in the Charlotte and Lake Norman region will begin this Monday, November 16, 2015. A public-private partnership is providing a \$648 million investment for a 26-mile expansion that will alleviate traffic congestion in one of North Carolina’s most important corridors.

Construction of the I-77 Express Lanes will occur in the median of I-77 with minimal disruption to commuters. Occasional lane shifts and closures will only take place in overnight hours. However, with day and night activity in the work zone, motorists should drive safely and stay alert at all times.

“I-77 Mobility Partners is excited to begin construction. The project will bring reduced traffic congestion, spur economic development through the hiring of 50-100 local firms and deliver a choice for North Carolina drivers at little cost to taxpayers,” said Jean Leier, Director of Corporate Affairs at I-77 Mobility Partners. “We are committed to regular and ongoing communications with residents, commuters and businesses in the area to ensure a successful and safe project.”

Construction will start in the area south of Exit 23 Gilead Road to north of Exit 28 Catawba Avenue. Traffic control measures include restriping the roadway and shifting the lanes, installing a concrete safety barrier near the median and placing road markers along the project area. Initial construction work involves clearing the land and grading of the area. In 2016 drivers will see construction work along most of the 26-mile project.

Once the project is complete, dedicated express lanes will run adjacent to the existing general purpose lanes. The number of general purpose lanes will remain the same as today. Drivers will have the choice of using the express lanes to avoid travel delays, the general purpose lanes or a combination of both. Carpoolers with three or more occupants (including the driver) may use the express lanes for free. The full 26-mile project is slated to be completed in 2018.

“We believe this project will provide a benefit to I-77 users as an improvement to their daily quality of life,” Leier added. “With less congestion, drivers will have more time with their families or at the office, be able to make more service calls, and have greater access to goods and services.”

Area residents are encouraged to sign up for email updates by visiting I-77 Mobility Partners’ website: <http://www.i77express.com/newsroom/newsletter-e-alerts/>

Updates also will be posted to our social media channels:

- [I-77 Mobility Partners Facebook page](#)
- [I-77 Mobility Partners Twitter page](#)

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### **About I-77 Mobility Partners LLC**

I-77 Mobility Partners LLC, an independent company of Cintra, will design, build, operate and maintain the 26-mile I-77 Express Lanes Project as part of a public-private partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. With U.S. headquarters in Austin, Texas, Cintra is the leading private-sector transportation infrastructure company in the world, managing more than \$9 billion in infrastructure projects in the United States.

## **Work Zone Driving Tips**

- **STAY ALERT:** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION:** Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- **TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS:** Workers and other motorists must see you.
- **DON'T TAILGATE**
- **DON'T SPEED:** Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW**
- **DON'T CHANGE LANES IN THE WORK ZONE**
- **MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS:** Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving in the work zone.
- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED:** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- **BE PATIENT:** Remember the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

Source: North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)