Traffic shifts again as roundabout construction progresses

Construction of the six-legged roundabout at Hwy. 19 and I-35 is necessitating another traffic shift for area travelers.

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 11, traffic heading east through the interchange will move from the temporary bypass lanes back onto Hwy. 19 and through the roundabout toward Northfield.

The entrance ramp onto I-35 north will be inaccessible to eastbound motorists so construction on the northern portion of the roundabout can be completed. Traffic will be detoured onto I-35 south to the County Road 1 interchange, then east to the I-35 north entrance ramp.

The northbound I-35 exit ramp onto Hwy. 19, as well as County Road 46/Hazelwood Avenue and County Road 59/Anoka Avenue remain closed.

Westbound motorists will remain on the temporary bypass and will still have access to the entrance ramp onto I-35 north.

The $4.76 million project, led by Rice County, is being funded largely through grants and is designed to improve safety at the intersection.

Roundabouts not only slow traffic, but reduce the likelihood of side-impact crashes, considered the deadliest. According to the National Transportation Highway Safety Administration, nearly 8,000 people in the U.S. are killed in side-impact crashes annually.

Learn more about the project at https://bit.ly/RiceCo-19_35roundabout.

To receive project updates, visit ricecountymn.gov/list.aspx and Select I-35/Hwy. 19 interchange roundabout project in the Notify Me section.

Work on the roundabout is expected to be complete later this fall.

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