

When Will The Road Construction Nightmare End?

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A lot of people are getting frustrated about the recent traffic situation, as a result of construction. But the Texas Department of Public Safety assures you, there is a good reason for all the delays.

"I would love to know when they're going to get through with all this," says George Gonzales, standing outside of the Exxon gas station on Lucas.

TEX-DOT's Marc Shepard responds, "This entire project is slated to be finished this coming Friday, [April 21st], so we're hoping to get everybody off of the highway this Friday, and get a new feature installed on the highway system."

The new feature is a cable barrier, is going in place of the concrete guard rail. TEX-DOT says not only is the new technology cheaper, it's safer. "The cable system is kind of like an aircraft carrier. If you hit it, it doesn't let you go into the oncoming lanes. So it doesn't throw you back into the traffic you've been traveling in," says Shepard.

While the new barriers may not decrease the damage to your vehicle; it will however, decrease the number of casualties on the roadway.

"The point is to keep you from getting killed. That's our number one goal," Shepard says.

The cable barriers were first installed in the Dallas area, and on Interstate 10 from Houston to San Antonio. Cardinal Drive was the first in our area to get the new barriers.

"The real reason we put this up on Cardinal Drive is because of the problems we had with people crossing the median there. We had several fatalities. We put [the cable barrier]out, and we see it getting hit a lot, but its doing it's job."

Gonzales says he appreciates the new safety features, but feels there is a better way to guide traffic. "I know what they're doing is important, or else they wouldn't be out there doing it. But I wish they could shorten the barricade so it wouldn't be as congested."

TEX-DOT says to make traffic flow smoother, don't wait until the last minute to merge into the open lanes. You should get over as soon as you see the first road sign telling you to do so.