



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sherman Minton Bridge May Reopen a Week Early**

*Striping crews to restore I-265 ramp lanes at I-64 as weather permits*

NEW ALBANY, Ind. – Based upon the progress observed during ongoing construction inspections, the Indiana Department of Transportation estimates the Sherman Minton Bridge may reopen approximately a week earlier than the contractor's aggressive March 1 deadline. An exact date for reopening the bridge is not known, and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

Some preparations will be taking place in advance because painting pavement markings is a temperature-sensitive operation. Starting this week, striping crews will be restoring ramp lanes to their previous configuration where I-64 meets I-265, at the western end of the current detour. Orange barrels and barricades will continue to detour I-64 traffic onto I-265, and motorists should plan for lane reductions and possible delays at this interchange.

To the east, work to restore lane configurations where I-265 enters and exits I-65 will be performed shortly after the Sherman Minton Bridge reopens.

The Interstate 64 bridge over the Ohio River between New Albany and Louisville was closed Sept. 9 after a significant crack was discovered in a load-carrying element of the bridge. Installation of reinforcing steel along the outside faces of load-carrying bridge beams or tie girders is mostly complete. More complex work to install steel plates on the inside faces of the beams, beneath the lower deck of the bridge, is 80 percent complete.

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