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DR. TRAFFIC

Oakdale Road project at I-485 takes shape

Interchange is expected to open in November 2016 Three roundabouts will be built for the interchange

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The newest interchange for Interstate 485 is taking shape at Oakdale Road in northwest Charlotte.

Crews will be placing stone and paving at the site over the next month or so.

Construction started in August, and the interchange is scheduled to open in November 2016. It is expected to provide better access to I-485 in the immediate area. The new interchange also should relieve some congestion at the I-485 interchange at Brookshire Boulevard.

The project calls for three roundabouts. Two will connect to linear on-off ramps on either side of I-485. The third will be at the intersection of Mount Holly-Huntersville Road and Oakdale Road.

Construction crews so far have focused on grading and stabilizing soil along the ramps, along with making improvements on Mount Holly-Huntersville Road, said Jordan-Ashley Baker, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Transportation. Crews also are relocating utilities on the Mount Holly-Huntersville Road intersection.

Local transportation planners decided years ago to complete the I-485 loop without finishing construction that had begun at the Oakdale Road interchange.

A study adopted by the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (now called the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization) in 1999 recommended waiting to complete the interchange until 75 percent of the land within a one-half mile radius of the interchange was developed.

Construction of the Northwest portion of the I-485 loop from N.C. 27 to east of Oakdale Road was completed in December 2005. The leg from east of Oakdale to N.C. 115 was completed in June 2009, Baker said.

NCDOT had done some grading work but halted construction of the interchange. Years later, construction is continuing without reaching the benchmark for development in the area, (Presumably due to the rapidly increasing growth in the area.)