

Commuters celebrate a smooth ride after US-31 construction wraps up early

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GRAND TRAVERSE CO. -- After weeks of traffic tie-ups, commuters along a busy stretch of highway can enjoy a smooth ride without orange barrels dotting the drive.

The Michigan Department of Transportation announced that all lanes of US-31 in East Bay Township will be opening up Thursday.

Team Elmer's said the highway from Holiday Road to Three Mile Road will open to traffic by 2 p.m. Thursday, which is two weeks ahead of schedule.



"We knew from the planning stages of this badly needed project that construction would cause some inconvenience for motorists, residents, businesses and their customers in this busy corridor, so we worked with Elmer's to minimize those effects as much as possible," said Rick Liptak, MDOT's Traverse City Transportation Service Center (TSC) manager. "Through the hard work and meticulous coordination of Team Elmer's, we're so pleased that we can reopen this road fully as the summer tourism season ramps up."

Permanent pavement markings still need to be installed on the new roadway. Crews will return to the site next week for pavement markings, but that work will not require lane closures.

MDOT and contractor Team Elmer's will return to resurface US-31 from Holiday Road to the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme after Labor Day.

"The public, businesses and residents have been so patient through this project, and we can't thank them enough. We're thrilled to have the road open two weeks ahead of schedule," said Nick Broad, project manager for Team Elmer's. "We're looking forward to returning this fall to resurface US-31 along the bay, and improving this gateway to the Traverse City area."

The reconstruction portion of the project between Holiday and Three Mile roads included removal of all concrete and asphalt pavements, utility and drainage work, new concrete curb and gutters, and installation of continuous sidewalks on both sides of the highway.

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