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Posted: 6:17 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015

First major traffic alignment of I-4 Ultimate Project begins with Maitland Blvd.

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ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. — Road crews were hard at work overnight on Maitland Boulevard between Gateway Drive and Keller Road as part of the first major traffic alignment of the I-4 Ultimate Project.

Starting at 5 a.m. Thursday, drivers heading east will be driving in what used to be the median.

Special Section: I-4 Ultimate Improvement Project

Florida Department of Transportation officials said the change is designed to give crews room to work.

Now that traffic will be moved to the median, workers can rip up the old road and build new, elevated lanes and create a straight shot to and from I-4 with exit ramps for the major cross streets.

"I'm all for improving it. If it causes a little bit of a headache right now, I mean, it's nothing we're not used to with I-4," said driver Rene Perez.

The Florida Department of Transportation is expecting three years-worth of temporary changes in both directions to give road crews a chance to build up the new elevated Maitland Boulevard in sections.

"I've come that way before, and now I come this way up Hiwassee. It's kind of a pain, even just to turn right or left, it definitely gets backed up," said Perez.

Eventually it will tie into a major interchange at I-4, one of the biggest in the entire I-4 Ultimate Project.

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