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## I-4 Ultimate's first permanent bridge opens Monday

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## **ORLANDO, Fla. —**

Traffic will begin traveling over a new Interstate 4 bridge Monday near Kirkman Road and Universal Studios.

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The Interstate 4 Ultimate project has been going on more than a year, but still has a long way to go.

Despite the finish line being years away, additional I-4 lanes will be a reality near, Kirkman Road on Monday.

Traffic using Kirkman Road northbound now will be shifted first thing Monday morning.

The road will be shifted to the south and over the new bridge.

The Kirkman Road bridge is a milestone bridge, because it's the first permanent bridge in the I-4 Ultimate project to carry traffic.

Officials said the bridge is designed and built to handle traffic needs for years to come.

"Knowing that it's been designed and constructed to last, 30, 40, 50 years, is something that's going to be good for everybody," Project Manager J.J. Moegling said.

The effort to shift the traffic will start late afternoon Sunday and detours around the area will be in place until 5 a.m. Monday.

People traveling east on I-4 and looking to merge onto Kirkman north need to know that the merge will happen a quarter mile sooner than it does now.

The Kirkman Road and I-4 interchange includes some left side exits as it works now, but those are being changed to more traditional right side exits and entrances.

Officials hope the changes will cut down on the weaving and keep vehicles from crossing three or four lanes of traffic at the last minute.

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