

Infamous Fairbanks curve slated for another fix

By Dan Tracy, Orlando Sentinel

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The infamous Fairbanks curve on [Interstate 4](#) – the site of numerous accidents whenever it rains – will get yet another state-ordered makeover.

The [Florida Department of Transportation](#) plans to spend \$600,000 this fall putting down a layer of asphalt over the existing concrete in the westbound lanes, said agency spokesman Steve Olson.

The idea is that the asphalt will help drain away the water and provide better traction for motorists. It also will allow workers to restripe the lanes, Olson said.

FDOT officials theorize that some drivers have become disoriented on the curve just north of downtown [Orlando](#) because some of the joint lines between the concrete slabs conflict with the striping. That causes motorists to unknowingly drift toward the railings to the right, Olson said.

The state also has put up a temporary, electronic message board near the curve warning drivers to slow down.

A permanent black and yellow sign saying "Curve Ahead Check Your Speed" should be installed next month near mile marker 87, the official description of the interstate section between the Lee Road and Fairbanks Avenue exits.

Earlier this year, FDOT spent \$221,000 cutting grooves into the road to help the water drain.

The main problem with the curve is it was designed during the early 1960s and opened in 1965. A new interstate would not have such dramatic elevation changes or curves, both of which plague the curve.

Eventually, FDOT intends to smooth out the rolling nature of the highway and soften some curves though downtown, especially the one at Fairbanks.

The extensive I-4 renovation could cost \$2 billion and span 20 miles, from [Longwood](#) in [Seminole County](#) to Kirkman Road in south Orange County. Work could begin as soon as mid-2014, but only if private financiers are found.

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