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Stage 1 of Highway 290 Construction Begins

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Reporter

HOUSTON - For most Houston area commuters, gridlock is a way of life. But, big plans are underway to ease congestion along Highway 290.

It began this week with the small step of converting U-turn lanes and widening some exit ramps starting at 34th Street and reaching to Jones Road.

Eventually, more than \$300 million will be spent on improving 290 starting at Interstate 610 which is the 13th most congested roadway in our state.

The complicated project will stretch to FM 2920.

With a expected population boom of more than 60 percent, it can't come too soon.

"On 290 itself, we are predicting a population growth of close to 900,000 people along this corridor," says Anikka Ayala-Torres with the Texas Department of Transportation. "So our indication is, if we do not do something, then the extended commute and extended time of delay is going to reach 12 hours a day."

The entire 38-mile project will be time-consuming, with a projected completion date in 2024.

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