

Hwy. 50 construction on West Slope taking longer than expected

By Tony Bizjak, Sacramento Bee

Up in the El Dorado Hills area, commuters complain that one Highway 50 reconstruction effort seems to have become the region's official never-ending project.

It's been two years since work started on the combination car-pool lane and freeway interchange upgrade project – yet workers are still out there, shifting lanes for construction.

A sign next to the freeway says the project will be finished in 2010. Oops on that. The original finish date was two weeks ago. El Dorado officials now say July is the new due date. Meanwhile, the budget's bumped from \$29 million to \$34 million.

What happened? If you want to lay blame, start at the Capitol, where the governor and Legislature did their best to get this and dozens of other projects off to a really bad launch.

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