



# Chapel Lane extension opens in time for Black Friday shopping

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By WBRC Staff - email

**BIRMINGHAM, AL (WBRC)** - The Chapel Lane extension opened today in Hoover, giving people in the Bluff Park area a shortcut to Patton Creek and the Riverchase Galleria.

The City of Hoover held a ribbon cutting ceremony this morning at 10 a.m. to mark the occasion.

The extension connects Al Sier Road and Galleria Boulevard, allowing drivers to avoid the traffic congestion on Highway 31 and 459 if they're coming from Bluff Park. The new road is expected to handle up to 10,000 cars per day.

The road is only three-quarters of a mile long but it cost the city of Hoover \$7.5 million because some of the sewer lines had to be relocated and there is also water under the bridge. The city has invested a total of \$60 million into revitalizing the area around the Galleria.

Some residents wondered if the new road would add more traffic to Chapel Lane and the surrounding neighborhoods, but ALDOT doesn't think that will happen.

"I think it's a win-win. I don't believe it will fundamentally change routes of people from a distance but I think it'll change a lot of routes around the neighborhood and help people in the neighborhoods get where they want to go more quickly, more efficiently," John Cooper with ALDOT said.

The road is opening one week before Black Friday, so Hoover officials say they hope the Chapel Lane extension will make the holiday shopping traffic better this season.

"It's going to be huge. Thank goodness it's open before Thanksgiving. It's going to be great not only for shopping but for those who want to get on the interstate," Hoover Police Chief Nick Derzis said.

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