

For Immediate Release
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**Media Access/Availability Friday-Saturday-Sunday
Call in Advance to Schedule Interviews – Details on Pg. 3**

STAY AWAY WEEKEND #2 – SECOND HALF OF TRAFFIC SWITCH TO NEW WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE OCCURS THIS WEEKEND Far More Severe Delays Expected Than During June Traffic Switch *I-95 South (Beltway Inner Loop) Reduced to Single Lane For Up to Four Miles*

Oxon Hill, Md./Alexandria, Va. - Interstate 95 South/Capital Beltway Inner Loop travelers should make final preparations for very heavy traffic impacts this weekend (July 14-17) at the Wilson Bridge Project, as the second half of the traffic switch to the new bridge occurs, completing the transfer of all six lanes to the new bridge. Specifically, from Friday, July 14 at 8:00 p.m. until as late as 5:00 a.m., Monday, July 17, I-95 South/Inner Loop will be reduced to a single lane for approximately four miles and ramps on both sides of the Potomac River will be closed and detoured.

Delays and backups are expected to be far more severe this weekend compared to what occurred in June when I-95 North/Outer Loop traffic was switched to the new bridge. Traffic impacts are expected to be worse due to the following factors:

- No major I-95-diverting detour in effect, as there was in June at the I-95 North/Springfield interchange. It is not practical to close the ramp from southbound I-95 toward the Wilson Bridge, as it is very distant from the bridge project and would affect too many motorists not traveling to the Wilson Bridge.
- Typical Saturday Inner Loop traffic is 13 percent heavier than typical Saturday Outer Loop traffic, which will create a cumulatively greater effect as the day and weekend progresses.

During a nearly identical operation last summer, backups stretched as far as seven miles with delays of up to three hours.

Motorists and truckers are cautioned to steer clear of the area and choose an alternate route (see *Motorist Information on page 3 for more information*).

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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

8:00 p.m., Friday, July 14:

- I-95 South (Beltway Inner Loop) will be reduced to a single lane for approximately four miles spanning from the Maryland 210 interchange, across the Wilson Bridge, to the Route 1 interchange in Virginia.
- The ramp from I-295 South to I-95 South (Inner Loop) will be closed. Motorists will be detoured to I-95 North (Outer Loop) to Exit 3B - MD 210 North, right on 414 West (Oxon Hill Road), right on MD 210 North and then back to I-95 South (Inner Loop).

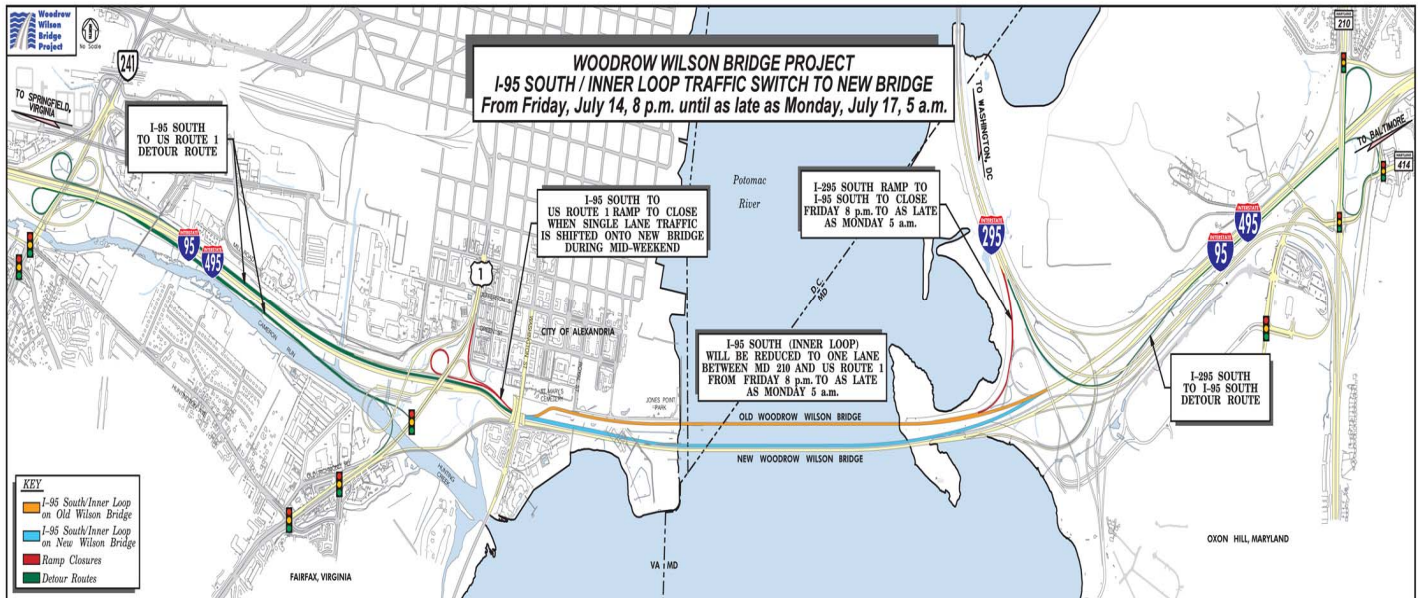
Mid-Weekend:

- The single lane of I-95 South (Inner Loop) will be shifted onto the new Wilson Bridge.
- In Virginia, ramps from I-95 South (Inner Loop) to Route 1 North and South will be closed, with posted detours to the Telegraph Road interchange.

As late as 5:00 a.m., Monday, July 17:

- All three lanes of I-95 South (Inner Loop) will be traveling on the new bridge.
- The closed ramps in Maryland and Virginia will be reopened to traffic.
- The new bridge will carry all six lanes of Beltway traffic.

Map Showing Details on Specific Lane/Ramp Closures



This weekend's closures are necessary to mill and pave connections to and from the existing Beltway alignment to the new bridge alignment, which is approximately 30 feet to the south. Completing the necessary paving will involve laying approximately 1,100 tons of asphalt (500 in Maryland/600 in Virginia), which must be placed in layers over a sequence of time, not all at once. Once a layer of 300-degree asphalt is placed, it must cool down to 140 degrees before another layer can be added. Once started, the job of adding layers of asphalt must be carried through to completion, in order to ensure an even and safe driving surface.

MOTORIST INFORMATION

1) Motorists should avoid the area – take an alternate route.

Long distance travelers should bypass the Washington, DC area by accessing southbound Route 301 near Baltimore, which then ties back in with I-95 near Richmond. This detour is nearly equal in mileage as taking I-95 across the Wilson Bridge.

Signs will be posted on I-95 South well before reaching the Capital Beltway, thereby enabling long distance drivers to choose alternative routes to avoid delays.

Local drivers should avoid the Wilson Bridge in the D.C. area by taking I-495 West (Beltway Outer Loop) running to the west and north of Washington DC, toward the American Legion Bridge or I-395 through Washington, D.C.

A detailed map of alternate routes is available at www.wilsonbridge.com.

- 2) **Click on www.wilsonbridge.com** for more information on closures and detour routes, as well as updates throughout the weekend.
- 3) **Call 1-877-INFO WWB (1-877-463-6992)** for more information and updates throughout the weekend. **Staff will be on duty to provide real-time traffic details and other information on Friday from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. as well as Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.** Recorded information will be provided overnight.
- 4) **1620 AM radio near the Wilson Bridge**
- 5) **Highway signs**

Substantial law enforcement and safety patrol resources will be deployed in the affected area and on alternate routes to keep traffic moving as safely and efficiently as possible. Extensive coordination with state and local emergency response agencies will help ensure that incidents are rapidly cleared and that distressed motorists are quickly assisted.

MEDIA ACCESS/AVAILABILITY FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY (July 14-15-16))

Coverage opportunities and interview availabilities regarding the second half of the traffic switch to the new Wilson Bridge are available to interested media all day Friday, July 14 and throughout the weekend.

Please call in advance to schedule interviews and for further details on possible vantage points.

New Vantage Points on Maryland Side:

1. **Under-construction ramp at I-295 and MD 210** – A bird's eye view of the weekend's activities, showcasing the transfer of I-95 South (Inner Loop) traffic to the new Wilson Bridge. Media must make advance arrangements to access the site.

Directions:

- Must approach from Virginia.
- Immediately after crossing Wilson Bridge, Take Exit 3A for MD 210 South/Indian Head Highway.
- At orange barrels on left, pull onto left shoulder
- Turn around and go up partially-built ramp.

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NOTE: CLOSE ACCESS TO THE MARYLAND WORK WILL BE PROVIDED WITH PROJECT ESCORTS. SITE VISITS MUST BE PREARRANGED AND WILL LEAVE FROM THE UNDER-CONSTRUCTION RAMP AT I-295 AND MD 210.

VIEW OF TIE-IN WITH NEW BRIDGE FROM MARYLAND



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