



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Capital Region  
Office of Communication  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20242  
202-619-7302 fax

Office of Public Affairs  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
202-366-7239 fax

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## Office of Communications News Release

For Immediate Release; Release Date: December 13, 2007  
NPS Contact: Bill Line or Toni Braxton 202- 619- 7400  
FHWA Contact: Ron Zeitz 202- 366- 0660

### **Major Construction Work Expected to begin January 7, 2008 On George Washington Memorial Parkway's Humpback Bridge; Major Delays Are Expected**

McLean, VA - - The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Eastern Federal Lands Highways Division (EFLHD), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), will soon begin a road construction project to improve road and trail use safety on the Humpback Bridge. Humpback Bridge is located on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) just north of Interstate 395 and immediately south of the Columbia Island Marina. Work is expected to begin January 7. Traffic delays are expected.

During the two- and one- half year improvement project, both northbound and southbound lanes of the GWMP will experience lane closures during non- rush hour periods, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and night time hours from 7:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. All four lanes over Humpback Bridge will be open to traffic during the morning and afternoon rush hour periods, or from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Construction crews may work seven days a week. EFLHD and the NPS urge motorists to seek alternate routes to avoid delays during these work- hour periods.

Please visit [www.humpbackbridge.dot.gov](http://www.humpbackbridge.dot.gov) for construction updates, additional information on the Humpback Bridge project and to print out copies of the suggested alternate routes. Eastern Federal Lands personnel will be available to respond to questions on the project between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, by calling 1- 800- 892- 8776, and pressing prompt #3. Motorists may access up- to- date information on this project by dialing "5- 1- 1." Information provided through this service will be updated it becomes available. Motorists may call 1- 800- 578- 4111 to access the same information provided through the "5- 1- 1" service.

#### **Background:**

The Humpback Bridge carries George Washington Memorial Parkway traffic over the  
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Boundary Channel. More than 75,000 vehicles cross it every day, far more than it was designed to carry when it was built in 1932. For this reason, the bridge will be replaced to meet current traffic demands. The project is slated to be completed in spring 2010.

The project will include replacement of the historic Humpback Bridge using similar materials and configuration of the existing bridge, the addition of a new acceleration lane for northbound traffic from the I- 395 on- ramp to northbound GWMP, and a separate, wider path for users of the Mount Vernon Trail. The road grade will be adjusted to improve sight distance over the bridge. A pedestrian crosswalk will be replaced with a tunnel underneath the parkway for safe access between the Columbia Island Marina and the Mount Vernon Trail and Potomac River shoreline. A barrier will be placed along the Humpback Bridge to separate users of the Mount Vernon Trail from GWMP traffic. Additional traffic and pedestrian safety improvements include closing the northbound vehicle entrances into the Columbia Island Marina and Lady Bird Johnson parking areas. When completed the project is expected to improve traffic flow and increase motorist and pedestrian safety.

“We ask for your patience and understanding of the short- term inconvenience to provide a long- term benefit in terms of enhanced park trail safety and reduced traffic congestion,” said GWMP Superintendent David Vela. The Federal Highway Administration and the NPS remind motorists to use extreme caution when passing through the work zone.

Efforts are being made to reduce the impact on commuters and other park users. Construction signs will be posted during the entire construction period to notify the public of the lane and ramp closures. The EFLHD and the NPS remind motorists to use extreme caution when passing through the work zone. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained at all times.

Every effort is being made to minimize traffic delays and accomplish the work in a timely manner. However, inclement weather may require adjustments to the schedule. The NPS will continue to inform the public and the news media with updates about the work schedule. The EFLHD and the NPS regret any inconvenience and appreciate all motorists’ and other park users’ understanding, patience and use of alternate routes around the work site.

This project was awarded on September 6 to Cianbro Corporation for \$35,296,213.65.

## **SUGGESTED ALTERNATE ROUTES:**

### **From points north to National Airport and points south: (Option #1)**

1. Take GWMP South and take the first exit toward I- 395 North/VA- 27/LBJ Grove/Pentagon
2. Keep left at fork and follow signs to I- 395 North and LBJ Grove. Turn left on Boundary Channel Drive
3. Turn left again at stop sign to stay on Boundary Channel Drive
4. Take ramp toward I- 395 North/US- 1 North
5. Take exit 10 A- B for GWMP South toward Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
6. Merge onto GWMP South

**From points north to National Airport and points south: (Option #2)**

1. Take GWMP South and exit at Arlington Cemetery/Memorial Bridge.
2. Turn left onto Memorial Avenue.
3. Take exit ramp on right to South 1/110.
4. Merge onto 110 South.
5. Take the I- 395 North/US- 1 North ramp.
6. Take exit 10 A- B for GWMP South toward Reagan National Airport.
7. Merge onto GWMP South.

**From points south to Memorial Bridge, Theodore Roosevelt Island and points north:**

1. Take GWMP North and exit at I- 395 South toward Richmond.
2. Take exit 10- A for Boundary Channel Drive/Pentagon North Parking.
3. Turn right at yield sign onto Boundary Channel Drive.
4. Turn right at stop sign toward GWMP.
5. Bear right at split toward US- 50 West.
6. At second split, bear right again to continue toward Spout Run/I- 66/I- 495.
7. Merge onto GWMP North.

**From DC to Memorial Bridge, Theodore Roosevelt Island and points north:**

1. Take the 14th Street Bridge (I- 395) across the Potomac River.
2. Take exit 10- A for Boundary Channel Drive/Pentagon North Parking.
3. Turn right at yield sign onto Boundary Channel Drive.
4. Turn right at stop sign toward GWMP.
5. Bear right at split toward US- 50 West.
6. At second split, bear right again to continue toward Spout Run/I- 66/I- 495.
7. Merge onto GWMP North.

**From DC and points east to National Airport and points south:**

1. Take the 14th Street Bridge (I- 395) across the Potomac River.
2. Take exit 10- B toward Reagan National Airport.
3. Merge onto GWMP and follow signs.

**From points south and I- 395 northbound to Memorial Bridge, Theodore Roosevelt Island and points north:**

1. From I- 395, take exit 8- B for VA- 27 Washington Blvd./Pentagon/Arlington Cemetery/Rosslyn.
2. At split, bear left toward Memorial Bridge.
3. Bear right at split toward US- 50 West.
4. At second split, bear right again to continue toward Spout Run/I- 66/I- 495.
5. Merge onto GWMP North.

**From points south and Old Towne Alexandria to Columbia Island Marina:**

1. Take GWMP North and exit at I- 395 South toward Richmond.
2. Take exit 10- A for Boundary Channel Drive/Pentagon North Parking.
3. Turn right at yield sign onto Boundary Channel Drive.
4. Turn right at stop sign toward GWMP.
5. Bear right at split toward US- 50 West.
6. At second split, bear right again to continue toward Spout Run/I- 66/I- 495.

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7. Merge onto GWMP North.
8. Stay in left lane toward Spout Run Parkway.
9. Exit left toward Washington, D.C.
10. Merge onto GWMP South.
11. Turn right at sign for Columbia Island Marina/LBJ Memorial Grove.

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