



NORTHERN VIRGINIA PROJECT NEWS

VOLUME 1: JULY 28 - AUGUST 2, 2008

Several major construction projects will soon be under way in Northern Virginia. These construction projects provide innovative solutions to ease congestion by improving multiple modes of transportation—highway, rail and a new network for carpools and buses called High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. The region's congestion is the second worst in the nation and improvements are long overdue. While construction will make it challenging to get around in the short term, the long-term effect will be the biggest improvements ever to the Northern Virginia transportation system. Continue reading for project details or visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/megaprojects>.



I-495 Capital Beltway HOT lanes

Construction is underway to build four express lanes in the middle of the Capital Beltway between the Springfield Interchange and the Dulles Toll Road. HOT lanes, the Capital Beltway's first ever high occupancy vehicle network for carpools and vanpools, will open in 2013. The express lanes will offer motorists choices: buses, motorcycles and high occupancy vehicles with three or more people can ride for free; other vehicles can ride in HOT lanes for a variable rate toll. Detailed information on HOT lanes, including weekly lane closures, are available at www.virginiahotlanes.com.

I-95 Interchange at Telegraph Road

The reconstruction of the interchange at Telegraph Road and I-95 in Alexandria is the final phase of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project that is scheduled for completion in 2013. Ultimately, the new, grade-separated Interchange is expected to improve traffic flow and safety and provide easier and pedestrian access. Motorists will be able to use ramps to access Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway in the future. Visit www.wilsonbridge.com for the latest project information.

Fairfax County Parkway completion

This fall construction begins on the final link of the Fairfax County Parkway between Route 7 and Route 1. This 2.2-mile stretch of road cuts through the Army's Engineer Proving Ground near Rolling and Fullerton roads in the Newington area of Fairfax County. This section of the parkway will create a direct link between its terminus at Rolling Road and I-95. Details on the parkway extension project can be found at http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/fairfax_county_parkway_extension.asp

I-95 Widening

This project widens six miles of I-95 to four lanes in each direction between Exit 166, Fairfax County Parkway/Newington and Exit 160, Route 123 in Prince William County. Once complete, it will ease the southbound bottleneck at Newington and ease the flow of traffic to and from the Springfield Interchange. On the north side the widening starts at Exit 160 and meets the existing fourth lane just north of Pohick Creek. Construction is scheduled through 2011. More details on the project are at <http://207.32.116.40/megaprojects/projectSummary01.html>.

Rail to Dulles (Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority)

The 23-mile project will create a new westerly metro line from the East Falls Church Metro station that runs toward Ashburn and serves Tysons Corner, Reston Herndon, the Washington Dulles International Airport and eastern Loudoun County. The project will be built in two phases. Rail service to Tysons Corner is projected to begin in 2013. The second phase of construction is projected to be completed from Wiehle Avenue to Ashburn in 2015. Route 7 utility relocation is an important piece of the project. VDOT will ensure that all traffic impacts during utility relocation as well as future construction will be communicated to the public. Construction of the Metro stations in Tysons will occur after contractors move water and communication lines and shift the lanes of Route 7 to accommodate the train line. Utility relocation will continue for the next nine months. Road construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009 to widen Route 7 and eliminate service roads. More project information can be found at www.dullesmetro.com.

I-95/395 HOV/Bus/HOT Lanes

Under a proposed public-private partnership, Fluor-Transurban, working in partnership with VDOT, could turn the existing reversible HOV lanes on I-95/I-395 into HOV/HOT lanes. The proposed project would add a third HOV lane from Eads Street to Dumfries and add two HOT/HOV lanes from Dumfries to Spotsylvania County (56 miles). This addition would provide a seamless HOT/HOV connection to the new lanes on the Capital Beltway. Environmental reviews are underway and construction could begin next year. Visit www.virginiahotlanes.com for more information and weekly lane closures.

I-495 Capital Beltway closures begin

Construction for the I-495 Capital Beltway HOT lanes between Springfield and the Dulles Toll Road began this month with daytime lane closures that will continue through the following months. VDOT Contractors have scheduled single lane closures in the northbound and southbound lanes. These **daytime lane closures** are scheduled between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Contractors will continue work at staging areas by clearing and installing environmental controls at the following interchanges: I-66, Arlington Boulevard, Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike. Partial ramp closures will occur this week during daytime hours at Little River Turnpike, I-66 westbound and Arlington



Boulevard. Last week, nighttime lane closures allowed crews to shift the southbound lanes of 495 near the I-66 interchange. The lane shift, which was completed Saturday, gives crews the space to safely construct two piers for the new I-66 bridge that will span the Beltway. The lanes are expected to remain shifted for about 18 months. All lane closures will be scheduled for off-peak hours and will be communicated in advance. Before trees are cleared, arborists examine tree lines to determine viability. Wildlife habitats will be protected according to state and federal guidelines.

I-95 widening continues

Daytime single lane closures will continue as contractors begin work in the third month of the I-95 Widening project. HOV lanes, which are open to all southbound traffic until 3 p.m., are expected to help ease congestion during work in the southbound lanes, which is scheduled for the weekday hours of 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Fridays all southbound lanes will reopen at noon. Pile drivers will

be pounding concrete bridge supports into the ground at Exit 163 in Lorton this week. The piles are part of a wider bridge that will support the fourth lane spanning Lorton Road. Daily closures are scheduled to close the northbound right lane for the project's six-mile length during non-peak daytime hours. HOV lanes are open in the northbound direction until 11 a.m. to help alleviate congestion at the lane closure.



Central Motors demolished

Demolition has begun to clear the way for the Fairfax County Parkway extension, which will complete the parkway's journey from Route 7 in the west to Route 1 in the east. Crews began excavation of the Central Motors Building at 7238 Fullerton Road in Springfield on Monday. They will spend the next few weeks clearing debris.



Route 7 utility relocation continues

Service roads on both sides of Route 7 will continue to see lane closures as contractors relocate utilities in the Tysons Corner area as part of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail project. Access points to businesses on the service roads will remain open within the project area between Route 123 and Spring Hill Road. Utility relocation includes moving communications and water lines. Night work will close one lane of Route 7 to install pipes for a water line near Route 123.

The Northern Virginia Projects Information Center is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be reached at 1-877-9595-222. Community groups, employers or homeowner associations that would like to request a presentation from the VDOT Northern Virginia Projects team should email Jamie.Breme@vdot.virginia.gov. To subscribe to Northern Virginia Project News or send feedback, send an email to Lillian.Kafka@vdot.virginia.gov.