



NORTHERN VIRGINIA PROJECT NEWS

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Road officials say 'go' to final link of Parkway

The groundbreaking for the final two mile section of the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) was held on Oct. 31. Construction begins this spring.

The announcement comes after extensive collaboration among Army, VDOT, Federal Highway Administration and Fairfax County officials who wanted to see the parkway extension open by 2010.

That's when officials estimate the road will open — and just in time for the arrival of a new National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency facility near the future path of the parkway. The 8,500 employees working in that facility, plus the area's commuters, will benefit from the direct connection of the parkway, said Don Carr, spokesman for Fort Belvoir. "This'll make it a clean shot," he said.

Upon completion, the Fairfax County Parkway will provide continuous traffic flow from Route 1 in southern Fairfax County to Route 7 in the north.

"It's smart," said Steve Titunik,

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Demolition underway at I-495

Routes 29, 7 affected; night closures continue



When old bridges are demolished, new ones will replace them. At the Little River Turnpike interchange crews drive piles as part of bridge construction at I-495.

The first bridge demolition along the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes corridor is underway and another is scheduled to begin soon.

A portion of the Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) bridge over the Beltway is being demolished the week of Nov. 2.

This is the first of many bridge demolitions scheduled as part of the I-495 HOT Lanes construction from the

Springfield Interchange to just north of the Dulles Toll Road.

"A wider Capital Beltway necessitates longer bridges crossing it. This provides us an opportunity to construct needed improvements such as: bike and pedestrian paths as well as bridges with improved safety railing and ramps with adequate shoulders," said Ronaldo "Nick" Nicholson,

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Large-scale transportation improvements in Northern Virginia are underway. Northern Virginia Project News is a summary of significant events related to these efforts. Request a subscription: Lillian.Kafka@vdot.virginia.gov

Dulles Rail work requires Tysons closures



Drivers using the Dulles Toll Road into and out of Tysons Corner will experience nighttime detours Nov. 4-6 for asphalt restoration work.

This work is weather permitting. The ramp from eastbound Leesburg Pike (Route 7) to the eastbound Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) will be closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on these days.

Also, the ramp from eastbound Dulles Toll Road to eastbound Route 7 will be closed from midnight to 3 a.m. Police will be on site.

The work is part of ongoing utility relocation in preparation for construction of the Dulles Corridor

Metrorail Project by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Additional utility work in both lanes of the service road adjacent to the eastbound Route 7 continues through Nov. 11 between Gosnell Road and Marshalls Drive in front of the Pike 7 Plaza. Entrances to businesses remain open.

From Nov. 3 to Nov. 17, crews will close the service road adjacent to westbound Route 7 between Tyco Road and Industrial Way for utility relocation.

At least one entrance to Koons Toyota will remain open.

For more information
703-572-0506
DullesMetro.com

Full time Route 50 closures to begin at I-495 Beltway bridge

In preparation for bridge work at the I-495 crossing over Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard), crews are going to begin full time lane closures starting the week of Nov. 10.

The left-most lanes in both directions of Route 50 will be closed for several months. This lane shift will allow crews to build new bridge piers that will support the future widened Beltway as part of the I-495 HOT Lanes project.

More I-495 HOT Lanes construction activities continue: clearing will occur between Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike. Also in the coming weeks, I-495 median demolition begins under the Oak Street bridge.

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spokesman for VDOT's Northern Virginia Megaprojects. "We'll now be able to disperse traffic and relieve the loads by opening up another pathway."

"The Army is glad to be able to join with Fairfax County and VDOT in getting this long-needed road project underway," said Assistant Secretary of the Army Keith Eastin. "The agreement we've reached to finish the Fairfax County Parkway is a great demonstration of what can be done when people roll up their sleeves for the common good."

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Elected officials and dignitaries turn dirt on the site where two segments of the Fairfax County Parkway will be joined to complete its journey from Route 1 to Route 7. The roadway construction will begin in spring of 2009 and is expected to be completed by 2010.

Woodrow Wilson Bridge: a landmark 10 years in the making



The last touches of paint are going on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in the next few weeks, marking the end of a two decade-long construction story about one of the newest iconic additions to the Washington, DC skyline.

From conception in an international bridge design competition to reality as award-winning feat of modern engineering, the on-time, on-budget Wilson Bridge has already become part of local lore. Although work remains on the four interchanges included as part of the overall project, work on the bridge itself is coming to an end.

As the mid-point of Interstate 95, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge has been important to the movement of individuals and freight between Maine and Florida.

Wilson Bridge: Today and Tomorrow

Today, the overall Wilson Bridge Project is 83 percent done, with work on Maryland Route 210, Interstate 295 and Virginia's Route 1 close to completion. The focus has begun to shift to the Telegraph Road Interchange, which is in its first year of construction and is scheduled for completion in 2013.

Like any masterpiece, the bascule bridge is getting some finishing touches. This week, the last strokes are being added of a textured paint that provides not only durability but along with the ornamental lighting, makes the bridge glow day and night, featuring and flattering its 85,000 tons of steel and concrete. In addition, the 15-by-

15 foot fender system design to protect the bascule piers from vessel collisions, is having its fire piping system finalized.

Already partially open to traffic, both river bridges will be done in December. Traffic will be divided into local and through lanes through the 7.5-mile extent of the project, allowing motorists and trucks which are simply passing through the corridor to avoid delays in the merging and deceleration at local intersection ramps. The bridge will have six lanes in each direction comprised of three local and three through lanes. The innermost through lane in each direction is reserved for a yet to be determined form of mass transit.

Click, match, ride: Online commuter tool gets an upgrade

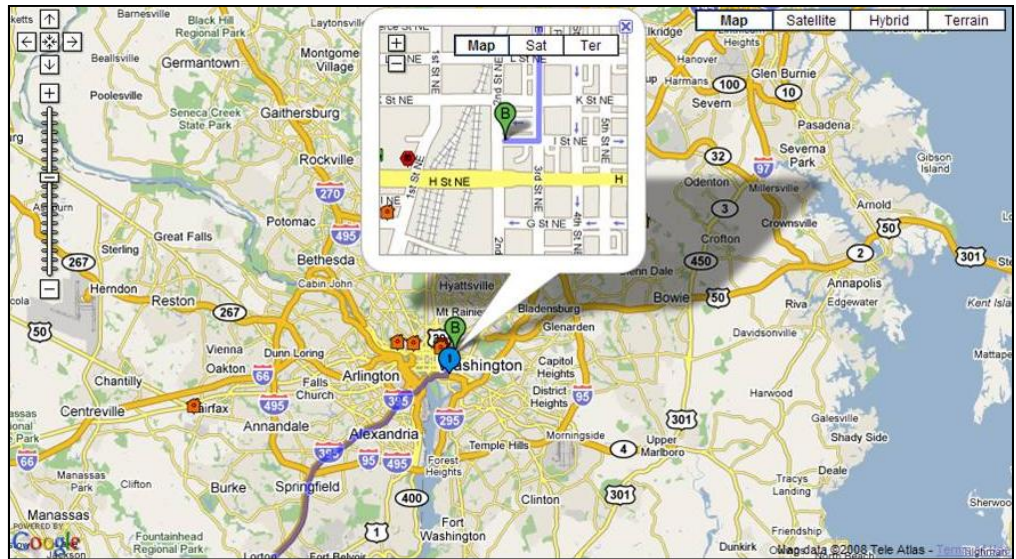
The regional ride matchers at Commuter Connections have updated their online car and van pool system with Google maps and new features to customize commutes.

Commuter Connections is a network of commuter assistance agencies in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia that aims to reduce air pollution and congestion on the region's roads.

"It's part of a combination of many strategies," said Nicholas Ramfos, director of Commuter Connections at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. "Part of it is building roads, also managing the demand of the roads, and there are a lot of strategies we support on a regional level. This is one of them."

The new Google map-based ride match system allows its riders to locate potential car pool buddies using features similar to those on the popular Web site.

The service is free and to date there are about 22,000 members. These people can save thousands of dollars a year, Ramfos said.



Members of Commuter Connections can find other people who are interested in car or van pools using an interactive map.

"Even if it's just one day a week you're going to cut your commuting cost by 20 percent," he said.

Last quarter, the commuters who signed up for the service and changed their method of travel saved about \$2,359 a day, or 573 gallons of gas, he said.

"That's really all it's about — changing travel behavior," Ramfos said. To ease some possible insecurities of using a new means of travel, Commuter Connections has a

Guaranteed Ride Home program.

When an unexpected event arises, registered users can call for a free ride home. This provides the comfort and flexibility necessary for commuters to try transit alternatives, Ramfos said.

"It just provides peace of mind," he said. "We've had several people get back to us and thank us for getting them to see the birth of their child."

For more information visit www.commuterconnections.org.

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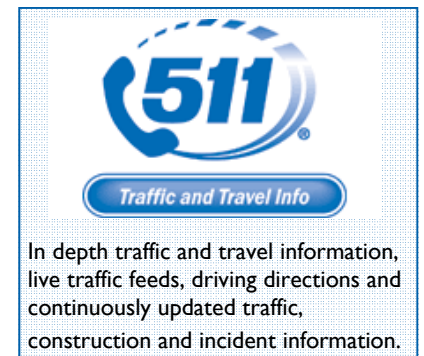
VDOT's Regional Transportation Program Director. "In the mean time, motorists must drive cautiously as we undergo this massive makeover."

Nighttime ramp closures from I-495 northbound to Route 7 westbound are scheduled for Nov. 2-3, Nov. 5-6 and Nov. 12-13. Three northbound lanes of the Beltway will be closed during the first half of this demolition; southbound lanes will experience closures during the second half of the closure. There will be a posted detour using Route 123 (Chain

Bridge Road).

Crews are preparing to demolish part of the Route 29 (Lee Highway) bridge over the Capital Beltway during the week of Nov. 17, weather permitting.

Crews will modify the signals and lane markings on the Route 29 bridge during the week of Nov. 10. Once traffic is shifted to one side, the bridge will be ready for demolition, which is scheduled for the week of Nov. 17. After demolition, construction of a replacement bridge will begin.



VDOT Megaprojects Information Center

Located at the Springfield Mall Entrance 3, the Information Center is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.