

# Traffic Alert

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## **I-495 HOT LANES PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

*Motorists should expect delays at key interchanges; Dulles Toll Road and I-66*

**ALEXANDRIA**—Construction along the 14-mile Capital Beltway High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project has made significant progress this summer with the opening of new bridges and overpasses but VDOT notes that major work will continue throughout the entire project, particularly in the Tysons Corner area, along the Dulles Toll Road and I-66 interchanges with I-495.

In Tysons Corner and along the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) drivers will continue to experience unavoidable impacts in these areas, including overnight roadway closures and changing lane conditions primarily affecting drivers traveling east on the Dulles Toll Road to eastbound I-66 and northbound I-495. This immense construction effort of building 17 new bridges in a tight construction area is made more difficult to build due to its location between two highly congested roadways – I-495 and the Dulles Toll Road.

The new interchange bridges will support the new Dulles Toll Road Interchange at I-495 and ramps to the Beltway HOT Lanes, general purposes lanes and connections to I-66 in this area.

VDOT will continue to monitor conditions to ensure all possible efforts are put in place to ease conditions to include:

- Regular onsite monitoring of travel area to assess traffic conditions
- New traffic cameras in place at Spring Hill Road and near Reston Parkway. These cameras will be monitored by VDOT Traffic Operations Staff so that incidents can be responded to immediately by first responders. The cameras will also be available online at Traffic Land for motorists to view real-time traffic conditions.
- Dynamic electronic message sign alerting drivers to travel conditions, placed west of Reston Parkway.

Drivers should plan ahead when traveling through this area by adding extra travel time to their commutes or taking an alternate route. VDOT, its partners Transurban-Fluor and MWAA will continue to look for opportunities to reduce congestion as the construction progresses and look at innovative strategies to keep traffic moving.

Some relief in this area is expected to occur in early to mid 2012, as lanes are restored and bridges and ramps are completed.

In the I-66/495 Interchange drivers are advised that in late September, a major change will occur at this interchange as crews permanently shut down the left exit ramp, Exit 49C, which takes northbound Beltway drivers to westbound I-66. Drivers will be required to use the existing right exit ramp, Exit 49A, to head westbound on I-66, which is being widened and modified to accommodate the additional traffic. Closure of the left exit ramp is necessary to shift traffic to the new Beltway outer lanes and allow progress to begin on a new HOT Lanes access ramp that will be built in place of the existing left exit for I-66 westbound.

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**About the HOT Lanes Project:** Bridge and road work is underway along all the Capital Beltway's interchanges inside the HOT Lanes Project work zone between the Springfield Interchange and just north of the Dulles Toll Road. These new bridges and interchange connections are part of the \$260 million infrastructure replacement in support of the \$1.4 billion Capital Beltway HOT Lanes project. The project is on schedule for completion by late 2012. For updated project information please visit [www.VAmegaprojects.com](http://www.VAmegaprojects.com)