



FACT SHEET

What is happening?

- The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is embarking on key improvements to the Frederick Douglass Bridge, accelerating the transformation of the South Capitol Street Corridor and Anacostia Waterfront into an urban gateway to the District of Columbia.
- Improvements to the Frederick Douglass Bridge have been under study and evaluation since late 2001.

What improvements are being made?

- Currently, the Frederick Douglass Bridge (South Capitol Street) continues on land as an elevated structure approaching I-395 and the U.S. Capitol. As such, it is a major barrier to pedestrian/bike, motorist and commercial access in and around the Southeast area.
- During 2007, the northernmost portion of the bridge will be lowered to become an at-grade roadway with a new intersection at South Capitol Street and Potomac Avenue.
- Lowering the roadway will provide quality access to and from new development and major employment centers that are being built in the near Southeast area. The roadway also will feature improved pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Additional improvements will occur such as putting new pavement on the entire bridge and new at-grade roadway and painting the bridge.
- A replacement bridge is planned in the next ten years with a world class design that will provide an architectural icon for the surrounding waterfront development.

When is the near-term bridge lowering scheduled to occur?

- The bridge lowering is scheduled to take place during July/August 2007, with remaining work scheduled to be completed by April 2008, in time for the opening of the new National's Ballpark, which is currently under construction.

What construction impacts are expected?

- The traveling public will be impacted by this closure, specifically residents of Washington D.C. and Maryland and Northern Virginia commuters who travel into downtown D.C. via the Frederick Douglass Bridge.
- From January through June 2007, weekend and off-peak weekday closures will occur (details below).
- During July and August 2007, all lanes on the bridge will be completely shutdown to allow for the efficient and safe completion of work.
 - Northbound drivers will follow signed detours to the I-295/11th Street Bridge providing direct access into D.C.
 - Southbound drivers will follow signed detours to I-395 South across the 11th Street Bridge to I-295 South into Maryland.

Why is a 2-month complete bridge closure necessary?

- DDOT’s philosophy is to **“Get In, Get Out and Stay Out.”** By having uninterrupted access to the bridge, workers will be able to complete the bridge lowering in a much shorter timeframe. Ultimately, impacts to commuters and adjacent neighborhoods will be shortened and minimized.
- An uninterrupted 2-month work period is expected to improve safety for residents, commuters and workers alike; improve construction quality; and expedite the project’s schedule.
- Similar strategies have been successfully deployed on major construction efforts in other large metropolitan areas.

What steps is DDOT taking to minimize impacts to the traveling public?

- Planning work and closures during summer-vacation months of lowest traffic volumes.
- Promoting the use of commute alternatives such as Metro rail and bus service.
- Engaging in a proactive public awareness campaign to keep the traveling public informed of the closures, recommended detour routes and commute alternatives. The **“no surprises” awareness campaign** will be geared toward affected residents and commuters. Information will be disseminated through paid drive-time radio advertisements and extensive outreach to media, major employers and stakeholders.
- Strategically placing highway message signs listing closures, dates/times and detours.
- Quick clearing of traffic-clogging incidents in alternate routes through increased presence of motorist assistance patrols.
- Coordinating with D.C. and area traffic operation centers and emergency response agencies to monitor traffic conditions and make refinements as necessary.

What preparatory work must occur from January-June 2007?

In advance of the July/August 2007 bridge construction, the following preparatory work must occur:

- Approximately 19 bridge expansion joints must be replaced with new joints (joints allow a bridge to flex when temperature changes occur).
- Joint replacement work involves removing existing joints from the concrete bridge deck, making necessary repairs, installing new joints and placing concrete to reconnect the existing bridge deck to the new joints.
- Under-the-bridge steel repair work and painting also will occur.

What traffic impacts will occur from January-June 2007 to accommodate the early repair work?

Short-term lane closures are planned during weekends and non-peak travel times on weekdays between late January and June to safely complete the bridge repair work that must be done in advance of the July/August 2007 bridge lowering.

January-June Weekend Bridge Closures

- Weekend bridge closures, in one direction only, are planned as outlined below.
- All closures may be subject to change and are weather dependent. In the event of inclement weather, closures will be rescheduled to the following weekend. Closures also may be postponed due to major special events held in D.C.
- Pedestrian and bike access will remain during all closures.

Closure of all northbound lanes on the Frederick Douglass Bridge toward Washington, D.C.

When:

- 1) Friday, January 26 at 10 a.m. to as late as Monday, January 29 at 4 a.m.
- 2) Friday, February 9 at 10 a.m. to as late as Monday, February 12 at 4 a.m.
- 3) Friday, March 9 at 10 a.m. to as late as Monday, March 12 at 4 a.m.
- 4) Friday, March 30 at 10 a.m. to as late as Monday, April 2 at 4 a.m.
- 5) Friday, April 13 at 10 a.m. to as late as Monday, April 16 at 4 a.m.
- 6) Friday, April 20 at 10 a.m. to as late as Monday, April 23 at 4 a.m.

Detour Route:

Northbound drivers will follow signed detours on I-295 North to the 11th Street Bridge providing direct access into D.C.

Closure of all southbound lanes on the Frederick Douglass Bridge toward Maryland

When:

- 1) Friday, May 4 at 10 p.m. to as late as Monday, May 7 at 4 p.m.
- 2) Saturday, May 19 at 10 p.m. to as late as Monday, May 21 at 4 p.m.
- 3) Saturday, June 2 at 10 p.m. to as late as Monday, June 5 at 4 p.m.

Detour Route:

Southbound drivers will follow signed detours to I-395 South across the 11th Street Bridge to I-295 South.

January-June Periodic Off-Peak Weekday Single-Lane Closures:

Periodic single-lane closures may occur during non-peak travel times.

Get the latest bridge/lane closure details at:

- <http://www.ddot.dc.gov>
- 202-671-DDOT (3368) (during normal business hours)
- Link to traffic cameras for real-time conditions at trafficland.com and traffic.com
- 1650 AM radio near the Frederick Douglass Bridge
- Roadway signs

Who is building these bridge improvements?

- Under the leadership of DDOT, Corman Construction Corporation is completing the Frederick Douglass Bridge Improvements Contract, which is valued at \$27 million.

