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Office of Communications News Release

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Major Construction Work to begin in January on George Washington Memorial Parkway's Boundary Channel Humpback Bridge; Major Delays Are Expected

McLean, VA --The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) will soon begin a road construction project to improve motorist and trail use safety on the Boundary Channel 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 in early January 2008. Traffic delays are expected.

During the three-year improvement project, both northbound and southbound lanes of the Parkway will experience construction at non-rush hour times. The Federal Highway Administration and the National Park Service urge motorists to seek alternative routes to avoid delays during non-rush hour periods.

The project will include replacing the historic "Humpback Bridge" using similar materials and configuration of the existing bridge, adding a new acceleration lane for northbound traffic from the I-395 on-ramp, and a separate wider path for users of the Mount Vernon Trail. The grade of the road will be adjusted to improve sight distance over the bridge. A pedestrian crosswalk will be replaced with a tunnel under the parkway for safe access between the Columbia Island Marina and the Mount Vernon Trail and Potomac shoreline. A barrier will be placed along the "Humpback Bridge" to separate users of the Mount Vernon Trail from Parkway traffic. Additional safety improvements include closing the northbound vehicle entrance into the Columbia Island Marina and Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove parking areas. The project, when completed, is also expected to improve traffic flow.

"We ask for your patience and understanding of the short-term inconvenience to you, to provide a long-term benefit in 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.

The average daily traffic count on the bridge is 75,000 vehicles. Construction signs will be posted during the entire construction period to notify the public of the lane and ramp closures. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained at all times.

Weather permitting the project is slated to be completed spring 2010. The media will continue to be informed of any adjustments in the work schedule. Every effort is being made to minimize traffic delays and finish the work in a timely manner.

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

For more information please visit our web site at www.humpbackbridge.dot.gov