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For Immediate Release : Wednesday, May 14, 2008
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Construction Work to Increase on George Washington Memorial Parkway's Humpback Bridge; Night work on Southbound lane could cause Major Delays

McLean, VA - - The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Eastern Federal Lands Highways Division (EFLHD), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), will **begin night work the week beginning Monday, May 19th**. The Humpback Bridge is located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) just north of Interstate 395 and immediately south of the Columbia Island Marina. Major delays are expected.

On or about May 19th, the public will begin to see increased night activity at the Humpback Bridge construction project. Major delays may be encountered when construction crews begin to demolish the bridge on the southbound lanes. The portion of the existing bridge that will not be demolished at this time has been reinforced. The traveling public will notice an increase in truck traffic over the next few months as the contractor removes debris and builds the new bridge structure. **During construction, one lane in each direction will remain open at all times.** Drivers are reminded to use suggested alternate routes. Electronic message boards and construction signs have been and will remain in place to alert drivers of the expected closures.

Night operations in the southbound lane will be between 7:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. Daily closures in the southbound lane will continue from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. At times the public may encounter weekend work. Weekend work is defined as 7:00 p.m. Friday to 5:30 a.m. on Monday. Weekend work will be listed at www.humpbackbridge.dot.gov and on the "5- I- 1" system.

One lane in each direction will remain open. The access to I- 395 south will remain open. Boat traffic will be able to travel under the bridge. The Mount Vernon Trail will be open at all times during the project. Pedestrians are reminded that the crosswalk to the Marina is closed. To access Mount Vernon Trail the NPS asks visitors to park at Daingerfield Island.

The public may obtain information about this project in several ways. Construction updates and suggested alternate routes may be found at www.humpbackbridge.dot.gov. Updates, including adjustments in the work schedule, will be posted on this website. Motorists may also access up-to-date information about this project by dialing "5-1-1."

The planned completion date for all work is Spring 2010. Weather delays may require adjustments to the schedule. The FHWA and the NPS will continue to inform the public and the media of any changes in the work schedule. Every effort is being made to minimize traffic delays and accomplish the work in a timely manner. The FHWA and the NPS regret any inconvenience and appreciate the public's understanding.

BROADCASTER'S NOTE:

Please announce on your morning and afternoon drive times and on 5:00 a.m., 6:00 a.m., 12 noon, 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. newscasts beginning Friday, May 16, 2008.

For your convenience, the FHWA and the NPS again provide the following suggested alternate route during this construction project:

From points north to National Airport and points south:

1. Take GWMP South and exit at Arlington Cemetery/Memorial Bridge.
2. Turn left onto Memorial Avenue.
3. Take exit ramp on right to South 1/110.
4. Merge onto 110 South.
5. Take the I-395 North/US-1 North ramp.
6. Take exit 10 A-B for GWMP South toward Reagan National Airport.
7. Merge onto GWMP South.