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For Immediate Release : Friday, May 2, 2008
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Construction Work Continues on George Washington Memorial Parkway's Humpback Bridge; Crane assembly near the 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 **have a second crane delivered on Saturday, May 3, 2008 and assembled** on the same day along southbound George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) as part of the Humpback Bridge Replacement Project. 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 Saturday May 3rd a large crane, similar to the one already on the job site, will be delivered at approximately 7:00 a.m. and assembled during the day. It is anticipated that the assembly will be completed by 3:00 p.m. The right southbound lane will be closed during assembly. The access to I- 395 southbound will remain open. Major delays may be encountered when construction crews work on Saturday. **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.

The public will see various changes in the construction in the near future. Soon the lagoon side of the bridge will be demolished. The traveling public will notice an increase in truck traffic over the next few months as the contractor removes debris and installs the new bridge structure. Daily closures in the southbound lane will continue from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Recreational user are advised boat traffic will still be able to travel under the Humpback Bridge and 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 the Mount Vernon Trail, the NPS asks that visitors park at Daingerfield Island in the overflow lot.

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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." Information provided will be updated as it becomes available.

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 2nd.

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.