



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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◇◇◇ **TRAFFIC ALERT** ◇◇◇

**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE
I-495 SOUTHBOUND RAMP OVER WESTBOUND CLARA BARTON
PARKWAY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

***Major Bridge Rehabilitation Project is Underway;
Motorists Will Be Routed Along Detour Through This Fall***

(August 15, 2008) – Beginning Monday, August 18, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) will temporarily close the ramp from westbound Clara Barton Parkway to southbound I-495 (Capital Beltway). SHA will close this ramp through the fall to allow crews to replace the concrete deck for the bridge which is part of the Clara Barton Parkway exit ramp.

Along with the deck replacement, the project includes cleaning and painting of the steel bridge beams, and minor repair work on the approaching roadway. The bridge was originally constructed in 1963. Preliminary work has begun for the project; the bridge is structurally safe but needs repairs to its concrete driving surface.

The posted detour directs motorists on the westbound Clara Barton Parkway to take the next exit for the Naval Surface Warfare Center and the Carderock Recreation Area. Traffic will make two left turns to cross over Clara Barton Parkway and exit back onto the eastbound Clara Barton Parkway.

Motorists should then use the left exit of the eastbound Clara Barton Parkway to access southbound I-495. In order to minimize delays, detoured ramp traffic will be permitted to make a left turn without stopping at the end of the Naval Surface Warfare Center exit. Temporary stop signs have been placed to allow for safe access from the exit. However, drivers should be especially observant during left-hand turns, as this is a new traffic pattern.

SHA awarded the \$2 million rehabilitation project to Anchor Construction Company of Landover. The project is part of SHA's ongoing bridge preservation and replacement program. Citizens who have questions about I-495 or any other State numbered roadway in Montgomery County should call SHA's District 3 office at 1-800-749-0737 or visit www.marylandroads.com.

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