

# Clara Barton Parkway Cantilever Structure Replacement



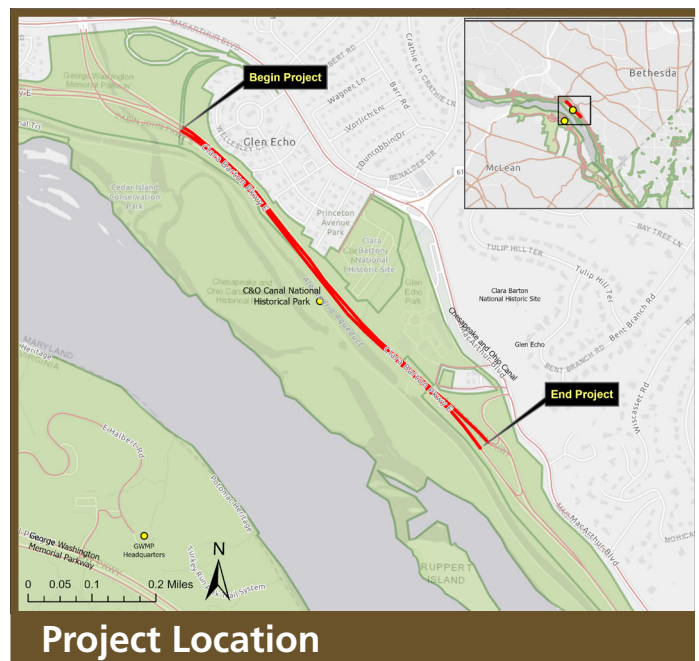
Clara Barton Parkway

Photo Credit: NPS

## Project Description

The Clara Barton Parkway provides an important connection between Maryland and Washington, DC along the Potomac River. Due to widespread deterioration, the Cantilever Structure is **approaching the end of its useful service life**.

Funding is needed soon to allow construction of the replacement cantilever structure. If no action is taken, Parkway users will be subjected to a **2-mile, 20-minute delay** due to closures required on the cantilevered lane of the Parkway and the lane below the cantilever.



## Project Location

Maryland

Interior Region 1

- Clara Barton Parkway Cantilever
- NPS Roads
- Primary Roads
- Points of Interest
- NPS Land

Map Credit: Volpe Center

Source Layers: Fairfax County, VA, MNCPPC, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, EPA, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, US Census Bureau, HERE

## Background & Current Status

The Clara Barton Parkway spans 6.8 miles, supporting commuter traffic to the Washington, DC area at an average of 42,000 vehicles each day.

At the time of its construction in 1959, **the cantilever structure was an innovative engineering solution**, allowing Clara Barton Parkway to accommodate four travel lanes in a constrained, challenging terrain along the Potomac River.

The structure is approaching the end of its useful remaining service life due to **widespread deterioration of the concrete overlay** on top of the cantilever slab. Testing of the structure indicates that corrosion of the reinforcing steel has begun and is likely to worsen. The Federal Highway Administration recommends action be taken, as **widespread corrosion of the steel will reduce the load-carrying capacity of the structure and severely impact its structural integrity**. The proposed project will be constructed through a design-build effort. The park will engage the public and stakeholders to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act. The compliance process, including public engagement, is anticipated to begin in 2024.

### Estimated Project Cost

**\$150  
MILLION**



View of the Clara Barton Parkway travel lanes below the cantilever.

*Photo Credit: NPS*

## Project Phasing

- Construction of the new cantilever structure would begin after rehabilitation of the northern section in 2026. This will allow that section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway to be used as a detour route during construction of the cantilever structure.
- Rehabilitating rather than replacing the existing structure would only postpone replacement by 20 years and entail significantly higher annual maintenance costs.