

Project Update and Field Activity Report

I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) Project

Issue 9 | September 30, 2022

In This Issue...

- Current and Upcoming Field Activities
- Work Zone Safety
- Community Grant Program Recipients and Upcoming Deadline

Current and Upcoming Field Activities

Capital Beltway Work Increasing Around Overpasses

Demolition of the northern portion of the Georgetown Pike Bridge over I-495 was completed in August, allowing construction to begin on the replacement bridge. Work is underway to build the foundation and support columns of the northern portion of the future wider bridge.

Additionally, crews are beginning preparations for replacing the bridge crossings at Live Oak Drive and Old Dominion Drive. Preparations include mobilizing equipment and jackhammering and excavating the median on I-495 below these bridges. Drilling for the foundations of the new bridges will start in November.



As Beltway traffic passes in both directions, an excavator removes soil to enable construction of a foundation for the new Georgetown Pike Bridge.

On I-495, work is also being done to strengthen the shoulder lanes along the roadway so they can serve as travel lanes as traffic is shifted during construction. Temporary concrete barriers will be installed along the north- and southbound sides of the Beltway to enable the widening work to proceed. Several interchange ramps in the project corridor have been or will be narrowed to allow for daytime and nighttime shoulder strengthening work.

Ramps that will be narrowed include:

- Ramp from westbound George Washington Memorial Parkway to I-495 South
- Ramp from I-495 North to eastbound George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Ramp from I-495 North to Georgetown Pike
- Ramp from westbound Dulles Toll Road to I-495 North

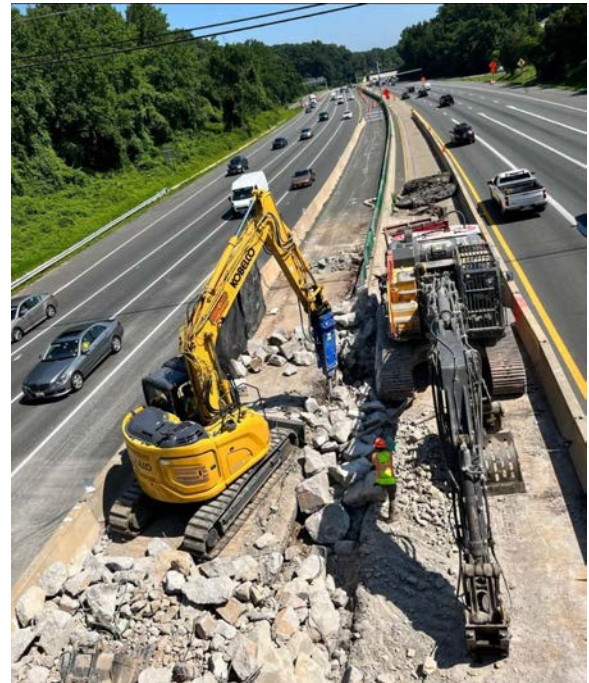
Travelers should expect frequent daytime and overnight lane closures on the Beltway as construction continues to ramp up.

Additional near-term work includes clearing vegetation along I-495, near interchange ramps and adjacent to the contractor's construction yard at Georgetown Pike.

Work Beginning on George Washington Memorial Parkway Bridges

On September 26, 495 NEXT project crews began repair work on the east- and westbound George Washington Memorial Parkway bridges over the Capital Beltway. This work is occurring during nighttime hours and includes some noisy activities such as sawing and hammering. Repairs include patching isolated areas that have potholes, uneven pavement and other similar roadway damage. The repair work is planned to extend into the fall.

Beginning in mid-October, crews will implement periodic extended lane closures on both bridges for deck repair work. Work may occur during day- and nighttime hours, and will require single lane closures on both the east- and westbound bridges. One travel lane will remain open in each direction during this work.



Two excavators equipped with hammers break up concrete median in preparation for the I-495 widening.

All construction activities are subject to change due to weather and other factors.

Stay Alert: Expect Overnight Multi-Lane Closures on the Beltway

With 495 NEXT construction activity intensifying to build new bridges over the Beltway, double- and triple-lane closures during overnight hours are now frequent and will remain so during the next three years. For motorists' and workers' safety, it's essential for all drivers to slow down and stay alert when approaching and driving through the work zones.

During overnight hours, when the multi-lane



closures are implemented, the likelihood of drivers being fatigued and inattentive increases. Drowsy driving crashes occur most frequently between midnight and 6 a.m. (or in the late afternoon) according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), which also reports that about 100,000 police-reported, drowsy-driving crashes result in nearly 800 fatalities and about 50,000 injuries every year.

Additionally, speeding is a major safety concern in the 495 NEXT corridor. While excessive speed is often observed in both directions when traffic is light (as it is during overnight lane closures), drivers often increase their speed coming down the long hill approaching the American Legion Bridge. Nationally in 2020, speeding was the leading factor in fatal work zone crashes, accounting for 37 percent of fatalities, according to the [Federal Highway Administration](#).

Please remember this important information and use caution when traveling in the 495 NEXT project area.



495 NEXT Community Grant

Transurban, the developer and operator of the 495, 95 and 395 Express Lanes, manages a competitive grant program to benefit the local community as part of the 495 NEXT project. The 495 NEXT Community Grant program awards grants every quarter to non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and other entities that sustain, enhance or protect the local environment and neighborhoods in proximity to the 495 NEXT project corridor. *The deadline to apply for the next series of community grants is September 30.*

Two organizations received the summer 2022 495 NEXT Community Grants:



Northern Virginia Family Service received a \$3,000 grant to provide community services that address acute needs, such as food security, safe housing and medical access, and long-term issues, including mental and physical wellness and healthy child development.



The McLean Volunteer Fire Department was awarded a \$6,000 grant to promote fire and life safety in the McLean community, including fire risk reduction, hands only CPR, and sudden trauma training programs.

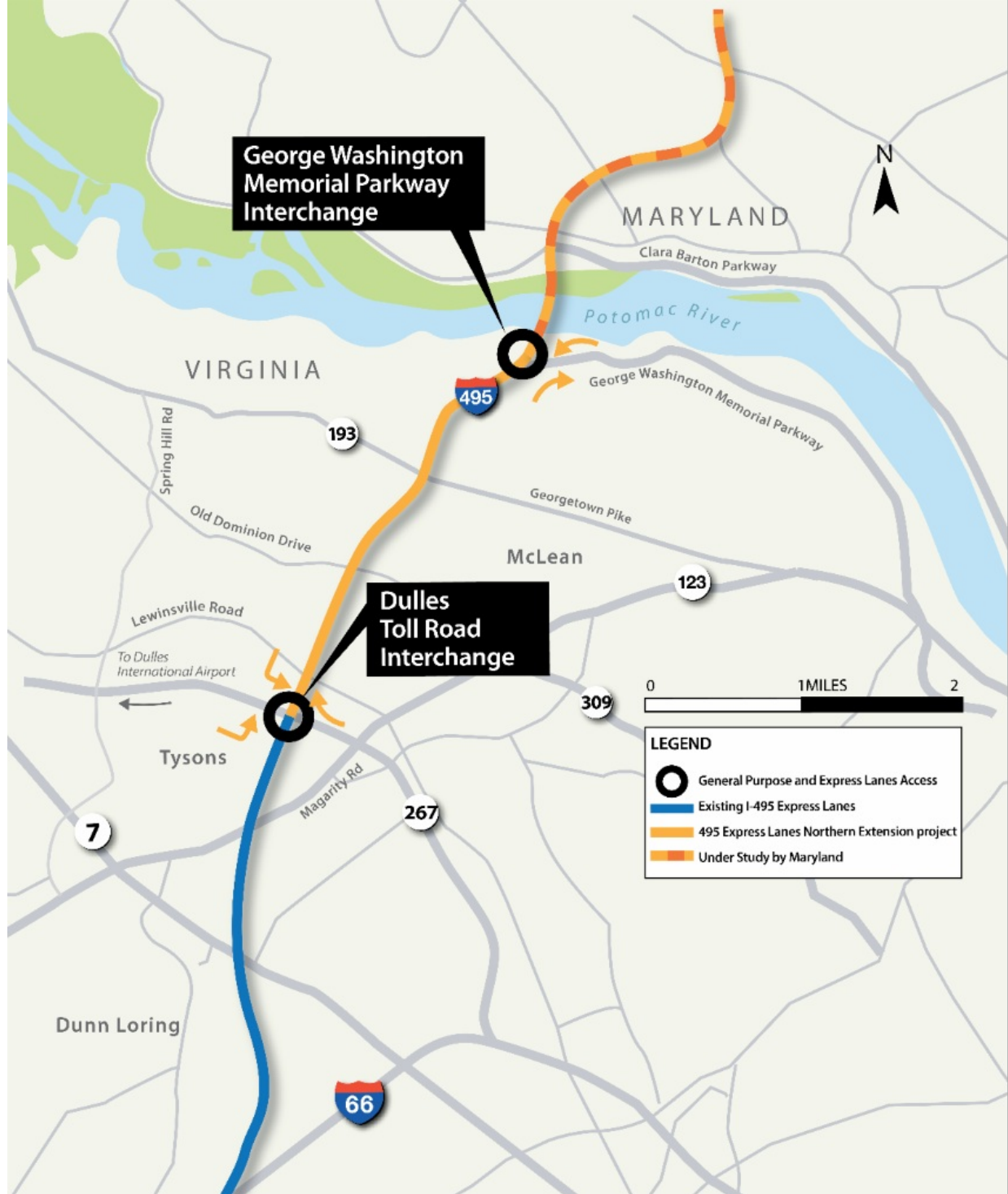
[Click here](#) to learn more about Transurban's Express Lanes Community Grant programs and how to apply.

Project Background

The I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project is extending the existing 495 Express Lanes north by two-and-a-half miles from the Dulles Corridor interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway interchange in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge. The project will provide new and improved connections at the Dulles Corridor and George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Other project benefits include four miles of new bicycle and pedestrian connections including a shared-use path parallel to I-495 from Lewinsville Road to near Live Oak Drive, replacement or rehabilitation of seven bridges with pedestrian accommodations, replacement of nine existing noise walls and construction of a new noise wall along Live Oak Drive in the vicinity of the George Washington Memorial Parkway interchange, environmental improvements introducing stormwater management facilities and funding restoration of the stream at Scotts Run, and dedicated funding to support transit improvements in the corridor including new bus service over the American Legion Bridge.

495 NEXT is a public-private partnership project between the Commonwealth of Virginia and Transurban, operator of the existing 495 Express Lanes. Lane Construction is the design-build contractor for the project. The new extended lanes are scheduled to open in 2025.



Learn More About the Project

Check out www.495NEXT.org for additional information.

[Sign up](#) here to receive project email updates.



Questions?

Email: 495NorthernExtension@vdot.virginia.gov

Call: Construction Inquiry Line, 703-592-6430

Virginia Department of Transportation, Michelle Holland, 703-586-0487

Transurban, Brent McKenzie, 571-326-5609

Lane Construction, John Undeland, 703-785-3461



Virginia Department of Transportation | 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

[Unsubscribe michelle.holland@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:michelle.holland@vdot.virginia.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by michelle.holland@vdot.virginia.gov in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!