

Project Update and Field Activity Report

495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project (495 NEXT)

Issue 7 | July 13, 2022

In This Issue...

- Georgetown Pike construction yard
- Georgetown Pike Bridge traffic shift and demolition
- Recap of June 6 and 7 Project Update Meetings
- New grant program to benefit I-495 communities

Current Field Activities

Georgetown Pike Construction Yard

Starting in mid to late July, the majority of 495 NEXT project vehicles and equipment will begin accessing the Georgetown Pike construction yard from a newly built construction entrance off the Georgetown Pike Beltway ramp.

The new entrance will allow 495 NEXT construction traffic to access the construction yard from the ramp and minimize the use of Georgetown Pike and Balls Hill Road.



Georgetown Pike Bridge Preparatory Work and Traffic Shift

In late June, VDOT began preparatory work for the demolition of the northern portion of the 62-year-old Georgetown Pike Bridge over the Capital Beltway.

Work crews started demolishing the center median of the bridge in late June, and in July they will demolish the median between the bridge and Balls Hill Road. Temporary pavement will be laid where the existing medians were removed. In mid to late July, temporary traffic barrier will be installed along the westbound shoulder and both directions of traffic will be shifted south on the bridge. Temporary traffic signals will be installed to enable the removal of the existing signals. Lane closures in both directions are being implemented during non-peak travel periods (midday and overnight hours) to carry out the work safely and efficiently.



A crew member operates a jackhammer to break up the concrete median.

Georgetown Pike Bridge Demolition

Following the preparatory work, crews will turn to demolishing the northern portion of the bridge. Removal of this section is necessary to enable construction of the center pier of the replacement bridge and, subsequently, the remainder of the new bridge, which will be longer in order to span the wider future Beltway.

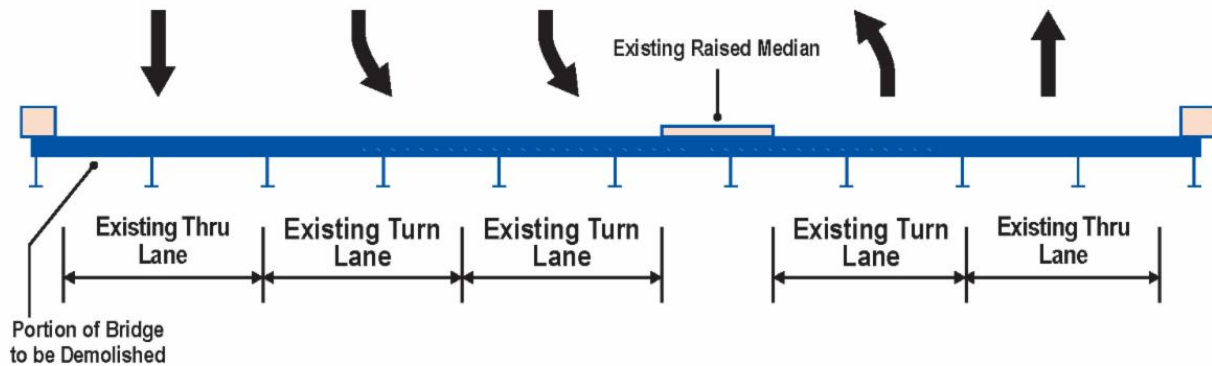
Specialized equipment will be utilized to demolish the bridge, including excavators fitted with hammers, saws and hydraulic jaws. While every effort will be made to control noise, demolition is unavoidably noisy and must be performed during night-time hours when Beltway traffic below the bridge is lightest.

Overnight triple- and double-lane closures on the Beltway and periodic shutdowns of all lanes for brief intervals will be necessary to ensure the work is performed safely. Virginia State Police will implement full lane closures for up to 30 minutes.

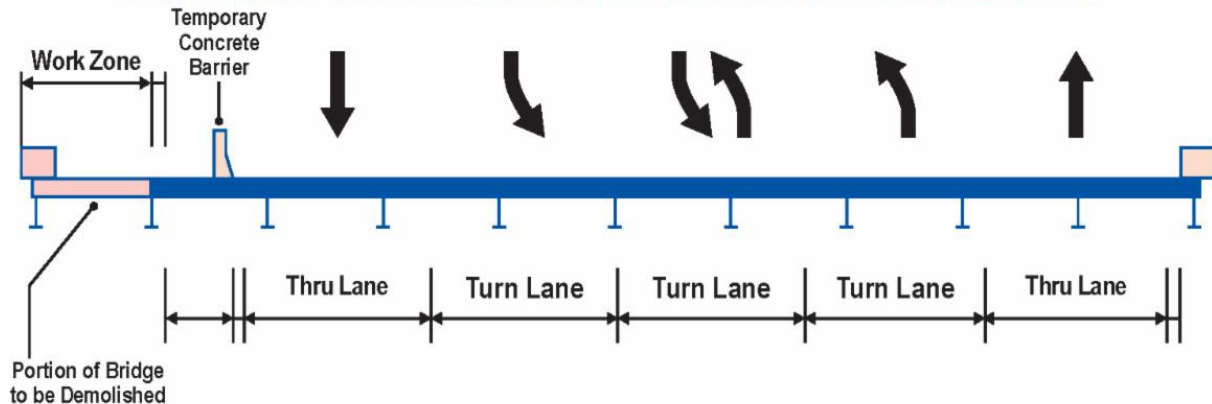
The demolition will also require periodic lane closures during off-peak travel periods (midday and overnight hours) on the Georgetown Pike Bridge. Travelers approaching the bridge should anticipate delays during off-peak travel periods and plan their trips accordingly.

495 NEXT Georgetown Pike Bridge Construction Work

EXISTING LANE CONFIGURATION



TEMPORARY LANE CONFIGURATION DURING CONSTRUCTION



The timing of the demolition, anticipated to take two to three weeks, is currently scheduled for late July to early August but is reliant on the advance work described above. The timing of all work is subject to weather and other factors. The traveling public will be notified via electronic signs, a news release, social media and other means when the timing of the demolition is more clearly determined.

Following demolition, the northern portion of the bridge will be rebuilt. At that time, traffic will be shifted to the north and the southern portion of the bridge will be demolished and rebuilt.

Once completed in 2025, the reconfigured Georgetown Pike Interchange will provide several improvements over the existing interchange, including:

- A channelized, free-flow right turn from westbound Georgetown Pike to northbound I-495;
- An on-ramp to northbound I-495 that will provide increased merge distance; and
- A wider Georgetown Pike Bridge that will include a six-foot-wide sidewalk and a trail connection to Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

All field work is subject to change based on weather and other factors.

Recap of June 6 and 7 Project Update Meetings

VDOT, along with project partner, Transurban, and contractor, Lane Construction, hosted [two project update meetings](#) on June 6 and 7 to provide residents and travelers an overview of design updates and project construction. The meetings

included a virtual and in-person option, with a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. Representatives from VDOT and its partners, including the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) were present to answer questions and address comments.



Stations dedicated to project elements were staffed by representatives from VDOT and its partners to answer questions and address comments.



Both the in-person and virtual meetings included a presentation followed by a Q&A session.

New Grant Program Launches to Benefit 495 NEXT Communities

Transurban, the developer and operator of the 495, 95 and 395 Express Lanes, is launching a new competitive grant program to benefit the local community as part of the 495 NEXT project. The 495 NEXT Community Grant program will award multiple grants every quarter, each worth up to \$3,000 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 funding will build on the success of Transurban's existing grant programs, which have contributed more than \$2.3 million to over 350 organizations in Northern Virginia over the past decade. These organizations are creating healthier communities across the region, providing educational programming, support to the vulnerable, environmental sustainability and other critical services.

Deadlines to apply for the Community Grant programs occur quarterly, with the next deadline set for September 30. To learn more about Transurban's Express Lanes Community Grant programs and how to apply, visit www.expresslanes.com/about.

Project Background

The 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension project (495 NEXT) 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?

Visit: www.495next.org

Email: 495NorthernExtension@vdot.virginia.gov

Call: 495 NEXT, Construction Inquiry Line, 703-592-6430

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

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