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DELAWARE RIVER PORT AUTHORITY
of Pennsylvania & New Jersey

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHASE TWO OF WALT WHITMAN BRIDGE REDECKING PROJECT BEGINS NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Drivers using the Walt Whitman Bridge are advised to be aware of changing traffic patterns in the eastbound direction into New Jersey as of 5am on January 25. Reduced speed and lane closures are to be expected. There will be no eastbound “wide loads” allowed during this phase which should take about 5 months to complete. During this phase of the re-decking project the long term closure will involve the eastbound lane adjacent to the far right eastbound curb lane. This will result in a “cattle shoot” for the far right eastbound lane into New Jersey which was the first lane to be re-decked. During peak eastbound traffic periods drivers are advised to consider using either the Commodore Barry Bridge, Ben Franklin Bridge or PATCO.

The redecking project includes the removal of the suspended span, installation of a new lightweight concrete filled jointless grid deck, structure improvements, new parapets and a new steel shell movable barrier. The bridge is 54 years old first opening to traffic on May 16th, 1957. In 2010, 39 million vehicles crossed the bridge.

The deck removal and replacement project began in August and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2014. Two contracts totaling \$139,774,286.67 to both redeck the Walt Whitman Bridge and monitor the project were awarded by the DRPA Board of Commissioners in May of 2010.

Project updates are posted on a special website, www.deckthewalt.com, and may also be heard on the Walt Whitman Bridge Traffic Advisory Radio Station at 530 AM.

DRPA is an equal opportunity employer

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The Delaware River Port Authority is a regional transportation agency. DRPA owns and operates the Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman, Commodore Barry Betsy Ross Bridge and PATCO. The DRPA also owns the RiverLink Ferry.

Walt Whitman Bridge Lane Closing Schedule

Monday January 23 and Tuesday January 24

- From 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Lane 6 eastbound to N.J. will be closed. (Consequently, two eastbound lanes will be closed at this time.)
- From 9:30am until 2:30pm, Lane 1 westbound to Pa. will be closed.

*Monday, January 23

- Beginning at 8pm until 5:30am the next morning, lane 6 will be closed. Two lanes eastbound will be closed until 11 pm.
- Beginning at 11pm until 5:30am the next morning, the adjacent lane, # 5, will also be closed. Three lanes eastbound will be closed during this time period.

*Should weather conditions prevent night construction on Monday, January 23, construction will begin on Tuesday evening, January 24 (again, weather permitting).

Tuesday, January 24

- Weather permitting, we expect to reopen Lane 7 eastbound to N.J. at 6 a.m.

Wednesday January 25 thru Friday January 27

- From 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Lane 5 eastbound to N.J. will be closed. (Consequently, two eastbound lanes will be closed during this time.)

Saturday January 28

- From 7 a.m. until 3 p.m., Lane 5 eastbound to N.J. will be closed. (Consequently, two eastbound lanes will be closed during this time.)