

## **For the Augusta-bound: DOT making major detour to fix I-95 bridge**

Thu, 10/26/2017 - 1:30pm

AUGUSTA — Beginning on Monday, October 30, all southbound Interstate 95 traffic at Exit 109 destined for Western Avenue in Augusta will be directed off Exit 109B onto Western Avenue westbound. Motorists traveling east on Western Avenue will need to proceed westerly to access one of the reverse direction loops at Edison Drive or Old Winthrop Road.

On October 3, a MaineDOT maintenance worker discovered the south exterior beam of the Ramp F Bridge over I-95 had been struck by a vehicle causing significant damage. There is currently a partial crack in the southern beam. Barrels have been placed along the south shoulder of the bridge to keep traffic off the damaged area.

Another recent hit has damaged the north exterior beam of the same bridge but to a lesser extent. Maine DOT personnel will continue to monitor the damage on both sides of the bridge to ensure it remains safe under legal loads.

On Saturday, October 28, MaineDOT crews will work to pave and alter striping patterns. Motorists should expect slight delays.

This bridge carries two-way traffic as part of the I-95 Exit 109 interchange as well as I-95 southbound traffic accessing Western Avenue headed east to the downtown and the Capitol complex. It also supports Western Avenue traffic bound for I-95 south.

Drivers are advised to find alternate routes. For more information and to sign up for email alerts, visit [mainedot.gov](http://mainedot.gov)

MaineDOT has been investigating what may have caused this damage with little success to date. Anyone with any information is asked to call MaineDOT's Legal Division at (207) 624-3020.

Construction materials act differently under cold temperatures. Although the bridge is currently safe for all legal loads, the Department feels it is prudent to remove one lane of traffic from the bridge before cold weather arrives and then remove all traffic from the bridge so that construction of a new bridge may move as quickly as possible. The following is a plan to move quickly, while maintaining public safety and minimizing impacts to our customers.

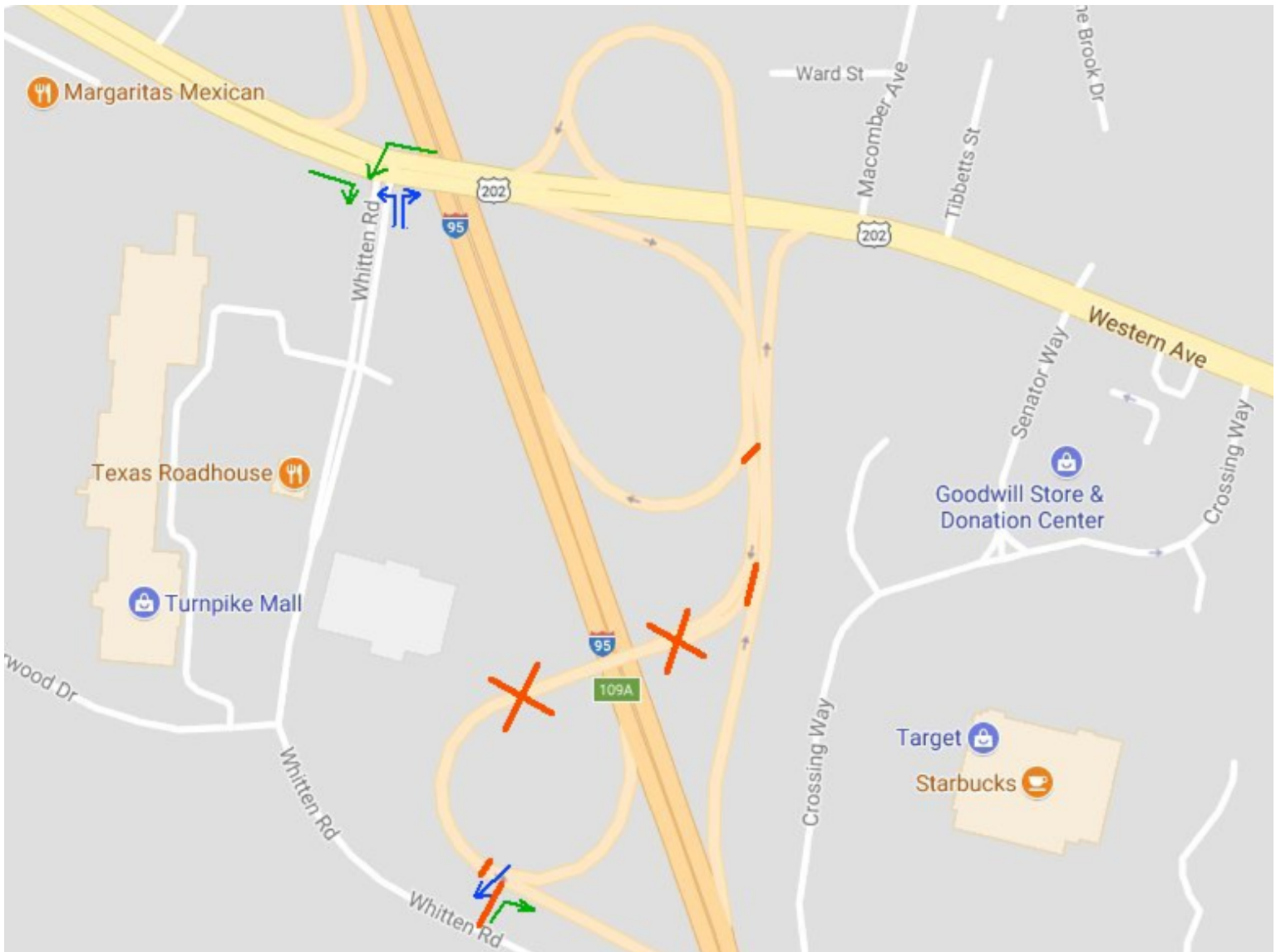
Short Term - Beginning Monday, October 30 all I-95, Exit 109, south bound traffic destined for Western Avenue in Augusta will be directed off Exit 109B onto Western Avenue westbound. Traffic wanting to head east on Western Avenue will need to proceed westerly to access one of the reverse direction loops at Edison Drive or Old Winthrop Road. During this period, travelers will be advised to seek alternate routes as much as possible.

Mid Term - In three to five weeks, using accelerated contracting methods, a new set of temporary ramps will be built from Exit 109A onto Whitten Road. Travelers will then access Western Avenue from the Whitten Road Intersection. Exit 109B will resume as before serving westbound Western Avenue travel to Manchester, Winthrop, etc. Travelers wanting to access I-95 southbound from Western Avenue will do so from Whitten Road.

Permanent Solution - When considering the significant effort, cost and traffic impacts associated with repairing the existing bridge, coupled with a strong likelihood of continued damage due to "over height" strikes, MaineDOT is working rapidly to develop and execute plans to replace the entire Ramp F bridge superstructure. As part of replacing the superstructure, we will increase the "under clearance" by over a foot to reduce the potential of future impacts and to be consistent with the clearances achieved with recent bridge projects over Interstate 95.

The Department plans to implement accelerated construction techniques to have a new bridge in place before spring of 2018. However, that could be affected by the type of winter weather before us.

MaineDOT will also be installing an over-height load warning system to protect other bridges, such as the overpass carrying Western Avenue over I-95.





News Release for October 26, 2017

For more Information:

Paul Merrill, Public Information Officer - 207-624-3355 or 207-215-9297

## Major Augusta Detour Begins Monday, October 30

Augusta ? Beginning on Monday, October 30th, all southbound Interstate 95 traffic at Exit 109 destined for Western Avenue in Augusta will be directed off Exit 109B onto Western Avenue westbound. Motorists traveling east on Western Avenue will need to proceed westerly to access one of the reverse direction loops at Edison Drive or Old Winthrop Road.

On October 3rd, a MaineDOT maintenance worker discovered the south exterior beam of the Ramp F Bridge over I-95 had been struck by a vehicle causing significant damage. There is currently a partial crack in the southern beam. Barrels have been placed along the south shoulder of the bridge to keep traffic off the damaged area.

Another recent hit has damaged the north exterior beam of the same bridge but to a lesser extent. MaineDOT personnel will continue to monitor the damage on both sides of the bridge to ensure it remains safe under legal loads.

On Saturday, October 28th, MaineDOT crews will work to pave and alter striping patterns. Motorists should expect slight delays.

This bridge carries two-way traffic as part of the I-95 Exit 109 interchange as well as I-95 southbound traffic accessing Western Avenue headed east to the downtown and the Capitol complex. It also supports Western Avenue traffic bound for I-95 south.

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Short Term - Beginning Monday, October 30th all I-95, Exit 109, south bound traffic destined for Western Avenue in Augusta will be directed off Exit 109B onto Western Avenue westbound. Traffic wanting to head east on Western Avenue will need to proceed westerly to access one of the reverse direction loops at Edison Drive or Old Winthrop Road. During this period, travelers will be advised to seek alternate routes as much as possible.

Mid Term - In three to five weeks, using accelerated contracting methods, a new set of temporary ramps will be built from Exit 109A onto Whitten Road. Travelers will then access Western Avenue from the Whitten Road Intersection. Exit 109B will resume as before serving westbound Western Avenue travel to Manchester, Winthrop, etc. Travelers wanting to access I-95 southbound from Western Avenue will do so from Whitten Road.

Permanent Solution - When considering the significant effort, cost and traffic impacts associated with repairing the existing bridge, coupled with a strong likelihood of continued damage due to ?over height? strikes, MaineDOT is working rapidly to develop and execute plans to replace the entire Ramp F bridge superstructure. As part of replacing the superstructure, we will increase the ?under clearance? by over a foot to reduce the potential of future impacts and to be consistent with the clearances achieved with recent bridge projects over Interstate 95.

The Department plans to implement accelerated construction techniques to have a new bridge in place before spring of 2018. However, that could be affected by the type of winter weather before us.

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News Release for October 30, 2017

For more Information:

Paul Merrill, Public Information Officer - 207-624-3355 or 207-215-9297

## Update to Augusta Detour

Update ? Due the recent storm damage and the need for crews elsewhere, this project has been postponed until Wednesday, November 1st. If needed, further updates will follow.

Augusta ? Beginning on Monday, October 30th, all southbound Interstate 95 traffic at Exit 109 destined for Western Avenue in Augusta will be directed off Exit 109B onto Western Avenue westbound. Motorists traveling east on Western Avenue will need to proceed westerly to access one of the reverse direction loops at Edison Drive or Old Winthrop Road.

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Short Term - Beginning Monday, October 30th all I-95, Exit 109, south bound traffic destined for Western Avenue in Augusta will be directed off Exit 109B onto Western Avenue westbound. Traffic wanting to head east on Western Avenue will need to proceed westerly to access one of the reverse direction loops at Edison Drive or Old Winthrop Road. During this period, travelers will be advised to seek alternate routes as much as possible.

Mid Term- In three to five weeks, using accelerated contracting methods, a new set of temporary ramps will be built from Exit 109A onto Whitten Road. Travelers will then access Western Avenue from the Whitten Road Intersection. Exit 109B will resume as before serving westbound Western Avenue travel to Manchester, Winthrop, etc. Travelers wanting to access I-95 southbound from Western Avenue will do so from Whitten Road.

Permanent Solution - When considering the significant effort, cost and traffic impacts associated with repairing the existing bridge, coupled with a strong likelihood of continued damage due to ?over height? strikes, MaineDOT is working rapidly to develop and execute plans to replace the entire Ramp F bridge superstructure. As part of replacing

the superstructure, we will increase the ?under clearance? by over a foot to reduce the potential of future impacts and to be consistent with the clearances achieved with recent bridge projects over Interstate 95.

The Department plans to implement accelerated construction techniques to have a new bridge in place before spring of 2018. However, that could be affected by the type of winter weather before us.

MaineDOT will also be installing an over-height load warning system to protect other bridges, such as the overpass carrying Western Avenue over I-95.

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News Release for November 3, 2017

For more Information:

Paul Merrill, Public Information Officer - 207-624-3355 or 207-215-9297

## Phase II of III - Temporary Ramps to be Constructed in Augusta at Exit 109A

Augusta ? Beginning on Tuesday, November 7th, construction will begin on a new set of temporary interstate ramps which will allow access between Whitten Road and I-95 Exit 109A.

Pike Industries was awarded this contract on Friday, November 3rd. MaineDOT has provided an incentive for accelerated work and expects the access to be available to the public in advance of the November 22nd deadline. While these ramps are being constructed, traffic headed southbound on the interstate as well as heading to the Capitol District or downtown should use Exit 113, Exit 112 or Exit 109B. All other movements remain unchanged from the current configuration.

Once completed, these new temporary access points to Whitten Road will be used by all traffic wishing to take I-95 to points south of Augusta and for those on I-95 southbound headed toward downtown Augusta or the Capital Area. Exit 109B will remain available for all I-95 southbound traffic headed west toward Manchester/Winthrop.

On October 3rd, a MaineDOT maintenance worker discovered the south exterior beam of the Ramp F Bridge over I-95 had been struck by a vehicle causing significant damage. There is currently a partial crack in the southern beam.

Another recent hit has damaged the north exterior beam of the same bridge but to a lesser extent. MaineDOT personnel will continue to monitor the damage on both sides of the bridge to ensure it remains safe under legal loads.

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MaineDOT has been investigating what may have caused this damage with little success to date. Anyone with any information is asked to call MaineDOT's Legal Division at (207) 624-3020.

Driving to a Permanent Solution - When considering the significant effort, cost and traffic impacts associated with repairing the existing bridge, coupled with a strong likelihood of continued damage due to ?over height? strikes, MaineDOT is accelerating a bridge construction contract to have a new bridge in place this winter.

As part of replacing the superstructure, we will increase the ?under clearance? by over a foot to reduce the potential of future impacts and to be consistent with the clearances achieved with recent bridge projects over Interstate 95.

MaineDOT will also be installing an over-height load warning system to protect other bridges, such as the overpass carrying Western Avenue over I-95.

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News Release for November 17, 2017

For more Information:

Paul Merrill, Public Information Officer - 207-624-3355 or 207-215-9297

## Temporary I-95 Ramps Opening on Whitten Road in Augusta

Augusta ? New, temporary Interstate 95 on and off-ramps in Augusta are expected to open to traffic in the afternoon of Sunday, November 19th. The temporary ramps are necessary to accommodate the replacement of the recently damaged bridge over I-95.

These new access points to Whitten Road will be used by all traffic taking I-95 to points south of Augusta and for those on I-95 southbound headed east toward downtown Augusta or the Capitol Area.

Exit 109B will remain available for all I-95 southbound traffic headed west toward Manchester/Winthrop.

The southbound traffic pattern on Whitten Road remains the same. However, all northbound traffic on Whitten Road will encounter a new stop sign at the intersection of Whitten Road and the temporary southbound on-ramp.

Motorists should allow extra time or consider using alternate routes such as Exits 112 or 113 while the new bridge is being constructed. Wyman and Simpson, Inc. of Richmond has been awarded the contract for the bridge work. The contractor has an aggressive schedule and is expected to be on-site soon after the new ramps are open. Weather permitting, the Exit 109 interchange will be back to normal by early March of 2018.

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MaineDOT has been investigating what may have caused this damage with little success to date. Anyone with any information is asked to call MaineDOT's Legal Division at (207) 624-3020.

As part of replacing the superstructure, there will be an increase of the ?under clearance? by over a foot to reduce the potential of future impacts and to be consistent with the clearances achieved with recent bridge projects over Interstate 95.

MaineDOT will also be installing an over-height load warning system to protect other bridges, such as the overpass carrying Western Avenue over I-95.

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News Release for December 1, 2017

For more Information:

Paul Merrill, Public Information Officer - 207-624-3355 or 207-215-9297

## I-95 Closures in Augusta

Augusta ? As part of the Exit 109 bridge repairs in Augusta, there will be night closures on Interstate 95 near Western Avenue during the week of December 4th.

I-95 southbound lane closure: Monday, 12/4 at 8:00 p.m. until Tuesday, 12/5 at 5:00 a.m.

I-95 northbound lane closure: Tuesday, 12/5 at 8:00 p.m. until Wednesday, 12/6 at 5:00 a.m.

Traffic detours on and off I-95 will be clearly signed.

This work involves removing steel girders from both the north and southbound sides.

If weather or other factors prevent work from being performed on Monday or Tuesday nights, a closure will take place Wednesday night, 12/6, from 8:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. Thursday, 12/7.

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News Release for February 14, 2018

For more Information:

Paul Merrill, Public Information Officer - 207-624-3355 or 207-215-9297

## Augusta Bridge Replacement Project Almost Complete

Augusta - This Thursday, February 15th, MaineDOT plans to return the Augusta Exit 109 interchange on Western Avenue back to its original configuration. The transition from the current temporary access at Whitten Road will be done in phases to ensure continuous access to I-95 southbound from Western Avenue.

After Thursday morning's commute, the southbound Exit 109A off-ramp will be closed. As was the previous detour, all southbound traffic heading to Augusta downtown or the Capitol Area should take Exit 113, Exit 112 or Exit 109B. Those taking Exit 109B must use the reverse direction loop at Edison Drive.

Later in the morning, the original southbound I-95 on-ramps on Western Avenue will be reopened and the temporary access at Whitten Road will be closed.

By Thursday evening, all ramps will be restored to their original configuration and open to all traffic.

This project was finished early despite the challenging winter conditions. We thank the public for their patience while the bridge was being replaced.

When warmer weather returns, workers will complete final paving and other planned work that should cause minimal traffic disruption.

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MaineDOT has been investigating what may have caused this damage with little success. Anyone with any information is asked to call MaineDOT's Legal Division at (207) 624-3020.

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