



MaineDOT News Release

RE: Closure of U.S. Route 1 in Wells

For Immediate Release: Friday, May 19, 2006

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ROUTE 1 IN WELLS CLOSED FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT

WELLS, MAINE - The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the town of Wells have closed a portion of U.S. Route 1 because of the immediate need to replace a culvert at Stevens Brook, just north of Furbush Road, and just south of Elmere Lane. Route 1 at this location carries an average of 16,000 vehicles per day. This section of roadway is expected to be closed for approximately one week, and traffic engineers have erected signage to outline a detour route for motorists. The detour is appropriate for local and thru car-traffic, but heavy trucks are strongly discouraged from using this route. On the affected portion of Route 1, only local truck traffic will be permitted north of the Wells-Ogunquit town line, or south of the intersection of Route 9B and Route 1.

On Friday morning, May 19th, the town's engineering consultant and MaineDOT engineers conducting a post-flood inspection of the culvert determined that it was in danger of failure due to damage from the flood event, and ordered traffic reduced to one lane at the location. The engineers subsequently determined that the road should be closed to all traffic and the culvert replaced. Route 1 was immediately closed to truck traffic, and shortly thereafter, closed to all traffic and a detour route devised. **[editors: please see attached pdf graphic of detour]** Coming from the south on Route 1 in Wells, the detour route proceeds west on Tatnic Road to Hiltons Lane, then north to Loop Road, then northeasterly on Loop Road to Route 9B, and then east to reconnect with Route 1.

A new eight-foot (diameter) concrete culvert ordered to replace the failed culvert is expected to be delivered to the site on Sunday or Monday morning. Construction crews will be working around the clock to replace the culvert, which lies some 25 feet beneath the road surface, and restore service to Route 1. Businesses in Wells remain open and accessible, and if all goes according to plan, MaineDOT and the town of Wells expect to re-open Route 1 to traffic before the start of the Memorial Day weekend.