

For Immediate Release:
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**NEW I-495 LOWELL BRIDGES TO BE PLACED IN SERVICE
EXIT 37 SOUTHBOUND ENTRANCE RAMP TO REOPEN**

Lowell, MA – Construction work on the I-495 Lowell Bridge Bundle will shift southbound traffic into a new lane alignment during the overnight hours between **9:00 PM on Friday April 22nd and 9:00 AM on Sunday April 24th**. The schedule for work is dependent on favorable weather conditions.

Beginning Saturday, April 23rd, the **southbound entrance ramp at the Woburn Street interchange (Exit 37) will be reopened**. This ramp will be available to traffic at all times between 5AM and 10PM. After 10PM, it will be subject to periodic closures as required for construction activity.

Traffic will be shifted out of the southbound high speed lanes and onto the three new bridges on the right-hand side of the highway. The project's fourth and final phase, replacing the second half of the southbound bridges, will commence immediately. Conditions associated with the fourth phase will remain in place until mid-summer, 2011 when the project will conclude. **MassDOT recommends that drivers plan ahead and allow extra time for trips through the work zone, especially during the weekend of the 22nd-24th. Drivers are reminded to reduce speed and use caution while traveling through the site.**

With the reopening of the southbound entrance ramp at Woburn Street, motorists will be able to use all interchange ramps for the remainder of the project, with the exception of the occasional night time closures referenced above. **Motorists are reminded that there will be no acceleration lane at the end of the southbound entrance ramp and that the ramp is a yield condition.** This means that drivers entering along this ramp ***must yield to on-coming traffic even if it means coming to a complete stop to wait for a safe gap in mainline traffic.*** MassDOT is committed to user safety, but a part of safe driving always remains in the hands of the individual motorist.

Drivers should note that throughout the remainder of construction on the overall project, the existing northbound breakdown lane will serve as an active travel lane and a breakdown lane will not be available through the limits of construction.

Replacement of the six bridges in the I-495 Lowell Bridge Bundle is taking place under the Patrick-Murray Administrations historic Accelerated Bridge Program, an eight year, \$3 Billion plan to repair or replace structurally deficient bridges throughout the Commonwealth. For more information about the I-495 Lowell Bridge Bundle, visit www.mass.gov/massdot/495bridgebundle.

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