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Augusta Memorial Bridge Project : Closure Alert, 2005

Maine Department of Transportation

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Building a Better Future

Through a Stronger Memorial Bridge



Thank you for your patience and cooperation during December's closure of the Augusta Memorial Bridge!

2005 brings plans for major re-decking work on this 55-year-old bridge that will serve the Central Maine area for decades to come!

 **MAINEDOT**
Maine Department of Transportation



As MaineDOT plans for re-decking Memorial Bridge in 2005, we studied traffic flow during the December closure to better assess our 2 options:

- 1. Full closure for 3-months or;
- 2. Night-and-weekend only closure lasting 6 to 7 months.

A comprehensive analysis of these 2 options has led MaineDOT to the conclusion that a full closure lasting 3-months is our preferred alternative. Here's why:

Saves taxpayer money - The MaineDOT has estimated that the night-and-weekend closure will cost taxpayers at least \$1.5 million more than full closure because of 3 additional months of labor as well as higher night and weekend wages. Local businesses may also suffer as the 6 to 7 month closure may spill into July 4th activities or November/December holiday shopping.

More efficient use of time - A 3-month closure means the entire day is spent reconstructing the bridge. With a night-and-weekend closure, 4 hours of every day may be spent moving equipment and materials on and off the bridge. Getting the work done faster means a faster return to "business as usual" for Augusta.

The safety of our workers - Bridge construction and re-decking is dangerous work, even in the best of circumstances. Fewer accidents occur when workers are rested and working in the light of day. In Maine, a 7-month closure inevitably means working outside in cold, winter weather which presents additional challenges for our crews.

More predictability for drivers and businesses - Unplanned weekday closures would be inevitable on a night-and-weekend project due to unforeseen circumstances. These unplanned weekday closures will be a hassle for drivers because it will not be possible to notify the public in advance. A more predictable 3-month closure allows for businesses to plan for employees' schedules and adjust business hours. And let's remember, Augusta has operated successfully with two bridges for the past 55 years.



For more information, visit www.mainedot.gov or call Wayne Frankhauser MaineDOT Bridge Program at (207) 624-3490.

MaineDOT wants to minimize the inconvenience by staying in touch!

As summer approaches, we want to keep you informed about this major transportation project. In addition to our public awareness campaign through the media, we would like to contact you directly.

Yes, I'd like to have MaineDOT contact me.

Please send email updates to keep me informed

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please mail updates to my home/business.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____



“Traffic rerouting going smoothly”

- Kennebec Journal
Thursday, December 2, 2004

“Thank you again for making the bridge closure barely noticeable.”

- Augusta Commuter

We asked for your feedback through visits, phone calls and Internet messages regarding December's closure. This is typical of what we heard:

