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**Augusta Memorial Bridge Project : Press Release - Additional
Downtown Augusta Parking in Place for the Holiday Season,
November 16, 2005**

Maine Department of Transportation

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2005

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Additional Downtown Augusta Parking in Place for the Holiday Season

AUGUSTA – MaineDOT is working to ensure adequate parking for downtown shoppers and workers now, and during the full closure of the Augusta Memorial Bridge that will begin in mid-February. Additional parking spaces on the rail bed between the Kennebec River and Gage Street will be available for use beginning Monday, November 21st. The 65 spaces should encourage downtown shopping during the coming holiday season.

The direction of the traffic flow through the entire rail bed parking lot, which is behind Macomber, Farr & Whitten Insurance building and next to the former bus station, will also change this weekend. Motorists should exit the current parking lot by driving toward Memorial Bridge, turning near the base of the bridge to ultimately exit in front of the Maine State Housing Authority building.

From mid-February to mid-May, when Memorial Bridge is fully closed, diagonal parking spaces on Commercial Street will become parallel to allow for an additional lane of traffic and better traffic flow. Parallel parking lines on Commercial Street had to be painted now because of the potential for snow and ice, which could last through the spring. The public is asked to continue to park cars diagonally on Commercial Street until February. MaineDOT will post diagonal parking signs this weekend to minimize confusion.

MaineDOT has set up an e-mail alert system for the Augusta Memorial Bridge project, which is available at www.mainedot.gov.

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