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News Release for April 23, 2009

For More Information:

Mark Latti, MaineDOT Office of Communications - 624-3030

Brad Foley, MaineDOT Highway Program - 624-3539

BLASTING IN I-295 MEDIAN WILL CAUSE TRAFFIC DELAYS

Beginning tomorrow, Friday, April 24, and finishing Saturday, April 25, crews will be blasting in order to remove ledge in the median between the northbound and southbound lanes on I-295 just south of Exit 49 in Gardiner. The blasting is scheduled to take place throughout the daytime during off-peak commuting hours.

The blasting will begin after 8:00 a.m., and for each blast, state police will slow traffic in both directions along I-295. Police will also close the Exit 49 on-ramps, but will allow traffic to leave the highway on Exit 49. These blasting periods will last approximately ten minutes. Blasts will occur several times throughout the day and will not be scheduled between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to avoid the increased afternoon traffic. Crews are clearing the ledge in order to construct a crossover lane between the north- and southbound lanes that will be utilized during the full closure of I-295 Northbound.

Additionally, from Saturday, April 25 to Friday, May 8, crews will be working on the shoulders along the Exit 28 on-ramp in Brunswick on I-295 Southbound. The ramp will remain open during this work. Current lane closures in the northbound and southbound lanes on I-295 between Brunswick and Gardiner will continue for ongoing paving and other infrastructure improvements.

This current work is in preparation for the full closure of I-295 Northbound from Topsham to Gardiner on June 16 in order to rehabilitate the highway. Preparatory work will take place on both the southbound and northbound lanes of I-295 up until the full closure of the northbound lanes.

Motorists are advised to consider alternate routes or to carpool, especially during peak commuting times. Drivers should use caution and be aware of construction personnel, construction equipment and changing traffic patterns.

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