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Maine Mall Area Roadwork : New Entrance to I-295 Northbound at Exit 3 in South Portland to Open August 18 - New Traffic Patterns Take Effect That Date, August 14, 2008

Maine Department of Transportation

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DRAFT – Aug. 11

New Entrance to I-295 Northbound at Exit 3 in South Portland to Open August 18—New Traffic Patterns Take Effect That Date

South Portland, ME – MaineDOT announced today that the new entrance ramp constructed at Exit 3 in South Portland will open to traffic in time for the morning commute on Monday, August 18. New traffic patterns will go into effect on that date for drivers in the area, including shoppers returning from the Maine Mall and Western Avenue who are entering I-295 to travel northbound to Portland and beyond.

- Drivers traveling south on Westbrook Street from the Maine Mall and Western Avenue areas will no longer need to cross oncoming traffic to enter I-295 northbound. Instead, those drivers will enter an exclusive separate entrance ramp lane on the right before passing underneath I-295. This protected lane is set-off by a raised median, and takes traffic through the right-hand turn at West Broadway and then to the new entrance ramp.
- For those traveling west on East Broadway, the new traffic pattern for entry to I-295 north includes proceeding straight ahead onto West Broadway at the intersection of Westbrook Street, and then turning right onto the new entrance ramp.
- Those traveling east on West Broadway will access I-295 north by turning left onto the new entrance ramp before the intersection with Westbrook Street.
- Drivers traveling north on Westbrook Street will turn left at the light onto West Broadway, then right onto the new entrance ramp.

The old entrance ramp from Westbrook Street will be closed August 18. Updated direction and route signs will be unveiled in the early morning hours just as the new

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entrance ramp is being opened. Work will continue at the site even as traffic begins to use the new entrance ramp. The old ramp will be removed, curbing and sidewalks will be built and final paving will be done on Westbrook Street. Occasional delays may be possible as these final phases of work are done.

The new entrance at Exit 3 will provide improved, safer access to I-295 northbound. Originally scheduled for completion in June of 2009, the \$5.58 million project has been proceeding ahead of schedule. The project marks the last in a series of roadway improvements that MaineDOT and the City of South Portland have completed in the greater Maine Mall area of South Portland. The Maine Mall area projects that have already been completed include:

- Replacement of the Payne Road Bridge with a wider, four-lane bridge with sidewalks.
- The addition of a right-hand turning lane on Maine Mall Road at the intersection of Running Hill Road and Gorham Road
- The redevelopment of the intersection of Western Avenue and Westbrook Street
- The creation of Jetport Plaza Road adjacent to Portland International Jetport
- The widening and resurfacing of Western Avenue from two to five-lanes, resulting in two-lanes in each direction with a new center turning lane, wider shoulders, and sidewalks on both sides

The Maine Mall area projects were announced in October of 2005 as part of a comprehensive set of roadway improvements designed to improve traffic flow, enhance driver safety and convenience, and to support continued economic growth in South Portland and Maine.

Information on the opening of the new entrance ramp at Exit 3 of I-295 and other MaineDOT construction projects is available online at www.mainedot.gov. Drivers may sign up for email alerts, and read updated construction schedules.

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