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**Maine Mall Area Roadwork : Turnpike's Exit 45 to Experience
Nighttime Closings Sunday, April 22 & Monday, April 23, 2007**

Maine Department of Transportation

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For Immediate Release

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April 20, 2007

Turnpike's Exit 45 To Experience Nighttime Closings
Sunday, April 22 & Monday, April 23

South Portland, ME – Due to the recent inclement weather, the Payne Road Bridge reconstruction work originally scheduled for April 15 – 19 could not be performed. The work has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 22 and Monday, April 23. The nighttime ramp and lane closures at Exit 45 on the Maine Turnpike are necessary as MaineDOT begins the final phase of structural steel beam installation at the Payne Road Bridge. Motorists are encouraged to use Exit 42 in Scarborough or Exit 46 at the Jetport during these hours.

The nighttime closures are as follows:

- Sunday, April 22 and Monday, April 23: All entering and exiting ramps at Exit 45 will be closed between the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am.
- Monday, April 23: Traffic on the Payne Road Bridge will be restricted to a single lane of alternating traffic from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am. South Portland Police will be present to direct the traffic flow.

Turnpike travelers are already being informed about the upcoming closures by flashing highway message boards and recorded messages on highway advisory radio 1610 AM.

The reconstruction of the Payne Road Bridge is part of the Maine Department of Transportation's initiative to improve traffic flow and safety in the entire Maine Mall area. The new Payne Road Bridge will be widened from 4 to 6 lanes to improve traffic flow and will include a sidewalk for pedestrians.

To help keep the public informed, MaineDOT provides project details and updates through its web site, www.mainedot.gov, as well as email updates to those who register for them at that site. Additionally, construction updates and traffic information are always available by calling 511, another service of MaineDOT.

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