



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt

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Additional Travel Lane to Open on I-95 Northbound from Lake Saltonstall Bridge to Exit 54 on November 25, 2003

Drivers traveling along I-95 Northbound in Branford can now look forward to an additional travel lane. On November 25, 2003 a third lane will open on I-95 northbound from the Lake Saltonstall Bridge to Exit 54 (Cedar Street). The opening of the additional lane marks the first of a series of highway improvements which are part of the I-95 New Haven Harbor Crossing (NHHC) Corridor Improvement Program. Along with this additional lane, wider shoulders were constructed on both sides of the roadway to enhance safety.

The I-95 NHHC Corridor Improvement Program includes roadway and transit improvements designed to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow and mobility along the highly-traveled I-95 corridor between New Haven and Branford. This important milestone is part of Contract D, which began in June 2002 and is part of the second phase of the Program. The first phase featured the addition of a Shore Line East commuter rail station at State Street, downtown New Haven, which opened June 7, 2002.

Other highlights of Contract D, which encompasses the reconstruction of I-95 between the Lake Saltonstall Bridge and Exit 54 in Branford, include the following:

- Construction of a third travel lane in each direction, along with wider shoulders and new median barriers on I-95;
- Replacement of the Todds Hill Road Bridge over I-95;
- Rehabilitation of the Cherry Hill Road Bridge over I-95;
- Widening of I-95 over the southbound on-ramp at Exit 53 (Branford Connector);
- Installation of new signage and lighting;
- An upgraded drainage system;
- Construction of noise barrier walls along I-95 at Exit 54 and Todds Hill and Cherry Hill roads;
- Relocation to Exit 55 (across from Regal Cinemas) of the Exit 54 commuter parking lot, which opened October 18, 2002;
- Widening of Cedar Street to accommodate turning lanes;
- Reconfiguration of ramps and resurfacing at both service areas on I-95 in Branford.

Substantial completion of Contract D is expected by late this fall, with construction completion anticipated in the spring of 2004.

As an integral part of the Program, the Department of Transportation has taken considerable efforts to implement a plan to maintain traffic flow during those hours when commuters and other travelers are most likely to be driving through the construction area. These peak travel times include both morning and evening rush hours. The number of lanes available on I-95 has not and will not be reduced during these peak hours, which are defined as 6:00 am to 9:00 am in the morning and 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the evening.

Information about road closures, detours, construction planning, and alternate travel options is available through the Program's website (www.i95newhaven.com), the Program's toll-free hotline (1-866-277-9595), and Program brochures that have been distributed to over 150 locations throughout Greater New Haven and the Shoreline.