

Dulles Metro is Coming

July 2011



Summer 2011: Guide to Driving in Metrorail Construction Zones



HIGH ABOVE I-495: A horizontal crane continues to be used to build bridges across the busy Capital Beltway in Tysons Corner. Photo by Chuck Samuelson, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

What's on the Horizon for Dulles Rail Construction from East Falls Church to Reston

Anywhere you drive along the alignment of Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project from East Falls Church through Tysons Corner to Wiehle Avenue in Reston this Summer you will see construction.

Here is a look at what's ahead from East Falls Church to the eastern edge of Reston.

I-66/Dulles Connector Road

The Dulles extension will tie-in with Metro's existing Orange Line between the existing East and West Falls Church Metrorail stations. Today, work continues on that tie-in with bridges and other complex work taking place extremely close to the existing tracks. Transit users can expect rail service disruptions over two-day weekends in July and both the Labor Day and Columbus Day three-day weekends this Fall because of Dulles Rail construction.

All along the Dulles Connector Road, motorists can expect some lane closings as work on the rail line in the median and the expansion of the existing West Falls Church Rail Yard continues.

The Beltway

Drivers using I-495 near Route 123 in the Tysons Corner area will

continue to experience overnight lane closings on both the northbound and southbound lanes. Some nights, only a single lane in a single direction will be closed, on other nights as many as three lanes will be closed. Sometimes the ramps to and from Route 123 will be affected. These closings take place from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. but set-ups begin several hours earlier.

The Beltway closings are necessary because crews are building bridges for the rail line across I-495.

Dulles Toll Road

Drivers using the eastbound Dulles Toll Road between Hunter Mill Road and the Main Toll Plaza will continue to face overnight lane closings and detours near Route 7 with construction of the overhead bridges to carry rail from the Dulles Airport Access Highway median to Route 7. The exit ramp to Route 7 will remain open.

Construction traffic also will be using the Dulles Toll Road and entering and leaving sites where support facilities, such as ponds and traction power substations, for the rail line are being built along the outer lanes.

Dulles Airport Access Highway

Drivers using the Dulles Airport Access Highway eastbound and westbound in these same areas will also experience lane closings and detours.

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For general information on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, please visit our website at www.dullesmetro.com or call (703) 572-0506.

Also, along the Airport Access Highway, the exit ramp to Route 7 will remain open.

Lanes along the Airport Access Highway will continue to be narrowed because of rail construction taking place in the median. Some lane closures will take place. Drivers should watch for construction traffic leaving and entering construction zones from open lanes.

Construction of the Wiehle Avenue Metrorail Station, the last stop in Phase 1, continues in the median west of Wiehle Avenue.

On Route 7 from Route 123 West to the Dulles Toll Road

Construction is well under way on piers and bridges for the aerial rail line and two Metrorail stations in the median of Route 7 in this area. Construction of both the Tysons Central 7 and Tysons West stations is progressing.

Before this intense work could begin in the median, many things had to be accomplished, including:

- Relocation and undergrounding of 21 different utilities – everything from gas and water lines to fiber for the high-tech defense and technology industries that are abundant in Tysons
- Elimination of the two-way service roads that used to parallel the east and westbound lanes of Route 7
- Elimination of mid-block left turns and creation of U-turn opportunities at signalized intersections
- Widening of the road bed by shifting lanes as much as 60 feet

These changes forced drivers to alter their daily driving habits. Now that these modifications have been made, motorists face fewer daily surprises because the lanes changes are minimal. Still, drivers must be on alert for construction traffic entering and exiting work zones in the median and to avoid distractions from the work taking place in the median.

Later this Summer or in early Fall, the work atop the piers in Route 7 will increase as a large (370-ton) yellow and blue horizontal crane will be used to build bridges for the rail in the median. This work will require nighttime closings of the intersection of Route 7 and Gosnell/WestPark. A date for this work has not been set.



ALONG ROUTE 7: Pier construction takes place along Route 7 at the Gosnell/West-Park intersection. Photo by Chuck Samuelson, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project



WIEHLE AVE: The Wiehle Avenue Metrorail Station is now 28 percent complete. Photo by Stephen Barna, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

Route 123

Construction of bridges along the northwest side of Route 123 from the Dulles Connector Road toward International Drive is continuing with work winding down at Scotts Crossing Road, near the Gates of McLean community, and Tysons Boulevard. Motorists will continue to see construction here, specifically night closings of the roads into and out of the Capital One complex.

Also work continues near I-495 and at Tysons Boulevard.

Construction continues on both the Tysons East and Tysons Central 123 Metrorail stations. Tysons East, located on the northwest side of Route 123 at Scotts Crossing Road, is 24 percent complete. Tysons Central 123, near Tysons Corner Center, is 22 percent complete.

Below Route 7 and Route 123

Work continues on both the inbound and outbound tunnels that will carry the trains below the busy intersection of Routes 7 and 123, connecting the Tysons Central 123 Station and the Tysons Central 7 Station.

Loudoun Honored for Tysons Bus Service, Part of Rail Efforts to Ease Congestion

Loudoun County's Tysons Express Bus Service is catching some statewide attention. This past month it was recognized as an outstanding program by the Virginia Transit Association.

The county's Office of Transportation Services received an Honorable Mention Award during the annual VTA conference held in Portsmouth in June.

Loudoun Tysons Express and the accompanying shuttle service are part of the Dulles Metrorail Project Transportation Management Plan.

The express service started in June 2010 and now operates seven morning and afternoon trips Monday through Friday. Buses originate at the Leesburg and Broadlands South park-and-ride lots and stop passengers at 18 stops in Tysons. In September, a shuttle from the Tysons Westpark Transit Station was added to serve areas on the east side of Tysons in the Colshire Drive area.

For additional information, visit www.loudoun.gov/bus-tysons or call **703-771-5665**.