

I-95 Richmond Bridge Restorations Project

Frequently Asked Questions



Upham Brook Bridge Overpass, I-95, Richmond, VA (Photo by VDOT)

What I-95 bridges have already been restored?

The project has restored bridges that span the following roads in the city of Richmond:

- Robin Hood Road (southbound)
- Sherwood Avenue (southbound)
- Hermitage Road
- Boulevard
- Bridge over the Boulevard exit ramp
- Westwood Avenue
- Laburnum Avenue

What are the remaining bridges to be replaced?

- Robin Hood Road (northbound)
- Sherwood Avenue (northbound)
- Overbrook Road
- Lombardy Street
- Upham Brook northbound (Henrico)
- Upham Brook southbound (Henrico)

Why is VDOT planning to work on the Overbrook Road bridge over weekends instead of on weeknights?

Work on the bridge over Overbrook Road is some-

what more complicated than the other bridges because the structure has overhead power lines that run transversely across the interstate directly above the bridge. There are also overhead power lines north of the structure. This situation boxes in the structure and creates crane positioning challenges each night. Due to the height of the power lines, the crane's gantry will need to be broken down, the crane will be moved into place between the power lines, and then re-assembled. This process takes approximately five hours to complete and would not work during the 10-hour window used for weeknights.

Why can't the power company re-route the power lines over I-95 to allow the contractor to position the crane without having to dis-assemble it?

VDOT's goal is to be as minimally disruptive as possible and mindful of commuter's needs. In order to do this work on weeknights, the crane would need to be staged on I-95 between bridge unit replacements. This would require a continuous closure of at least one travel lane throughout the day, causing significant traffic delays.



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Additionally, re-routing the power lines would have significantly increased the cost of this project.

How long will it take to replace the Lombardy Street bridge?

The Lombardy Street bridge is the largest of the 11 bridges and has 12 spans. The other bridges had one to four spans each. For the Lombardy Street bridge, there are 88 bridge sections to be replaced. The contractor typically replaces one section per night. We estimate the Lombardy Street bridge to be replaced over six to eight months.

Will work on the Lombardy Street bridge take place nights, weekends or both?

Due to the complexity of this bridge, we expect replacements to take place on weeknights and some weekends as needed. The schedule is to be determined. VDOT will notify the news media and drivers well before the work takes place.

What alternate routes should drivers consider to avoid construction on the bridges?

Through travelers are encouraged to use I-295 to bypass the construction. I-295 is 43 miles – only five miles longer than using I-95. Other alternate routes include the Downtown Expressway/Route 195 (toll), I-195 and Route 288.

How is VDOT communicating lane closure information to the public?

VDOT regularly provides Richmond area broadcasters with lane closure updates and project information. In addition, anyone can sign up for project-related updates at www.i95bridges.org. Real time traffic information is also available by calling 511 or visiting www.511virginia.org. Electronic message boards leading to and in the work zone alert drivers to lane closures and traffic delays. VDOT also notifies people using Facebook and Twitter (@VaDOT and @511centralVA).

When will the Upham Brook bridges be replaced?

Depending on the schedule for the Lombardy Street bridge, the Upham Brook bridges will be replaced in spring 2013 or early 2014.

Are there any challenges anticipated for the Upham Brook bridges?

These bridges span Upham Brook Creek and are located under the Route 301 overpass. This presents a challenge in positioning cranes to replace the bridge units. The contractor is currently finalizing their means and methods to replace these bridges. This may result in some weekend lane closures.

Is the project on schedule?

Yes.

What is the estimated completion date for this project?

June 2014

Is there an incentive for the contractors to finish the project ahead of schedule?

Yes, if they finish the bridge replacement portion of the project by late June 2014, they are eligible for a \$3 million bonus.

Is the project on budget?

Yes.

Where can I find out more about this project?

For more information about the I-95 Richmond Bridge Restorations project or to sign up for project updates, visit www.i95bridges.org. Anyone with questions about the project can call VDOT's Customer Service Center at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.