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Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Alert in Tysons Corner: Use Crosswalks on Route 7 at Westpark Drive/Gosnell Road

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project today issued a safety reminder to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who use Route 7 between Chain Bridge Road and the Dulles Toll Road: Stay alert, pay attention to signs and use crosswalks to get across the busy thoroughfare.

The roadway is a busy construction zone where lane shifts continue daily, paving operations are happening day and night and the eastern section of the road from the Gosnell Road/Westpark Drive intersection to Route 123 is too wide for pedestrians to make it across the street on a single traffic signal cycle.

In addition, large trucks, cranes and other construction equipment are at work in the widened median near SAIC, Marshalls and Pike 7 Plaza where preliminary work is under way on the future Tysons Central 7 Metrorail Station, the first of two stations to be built along Route 7. The part of the road was shifted more than 40 feet south earlier this summer.

This week, fences are going up around this work area to prevent pedestrians and bikers from entering the construction areas to cross Route 7. Instead, they must use a crosswalk at Gosnell/Westpark to cross the street. Because it is virtually impossible to cross both the east and westbound lanes in a signal cycle, crews have installed a button in the median for bikers and pedestrians to use to continue to cross the road.

Pedestrians will find that new sidewalks are now open along the south side of Route 7 east of Gosnell. By fall 2010, sidewalks will be completed on both the north and south sides of the highway from Route 123 to the Toll Road. Until those open, pedestrians have to be very careful, project officials warned. Those getting on and off buses in this area should also be cautious.

In addition, the old service roads along the east and westbound lanes are gone, having become part of the wider Route 7. Crews will continue to close existing mid-block left-turns, which should be permanent by the end of the summer. The only one still temporarily open is near McDonald's on the north side of Route 7 and Ruth's Chris on the south side. It will close permanently in the coming weeks.



Currently, intensive road work, including repaving and restriping, is now taking place from Gosnell/Westpark in preparation for the next major widening which will take place to create a work zone for construction of the Tysons West Metrorail Station between Spring Hill and Tyco Roads. That widening also is expected to take place by the end of August.

The Rail Project is a 23-mile extension of Metro's existing Orange Line. Phase 1 from East Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue in Reston, with four stops in Tysons Corner, will be completed in 2013. Phase 2 is from Wiehle Avenue to Dulles Airport and Ashburn in eastern Loudoun County.

If you have any construction-related emergencies, please call the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Hotline at 877-585-6789. For further information about the project, please visit our project website at www.dullesmetro.com or call 703-572-0506.