

# **The Big Beam Weekend: Late January 2025**

**Major Lane Closures & Traffic Diversion on NB I-495 Near Tysons**

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee Meeting

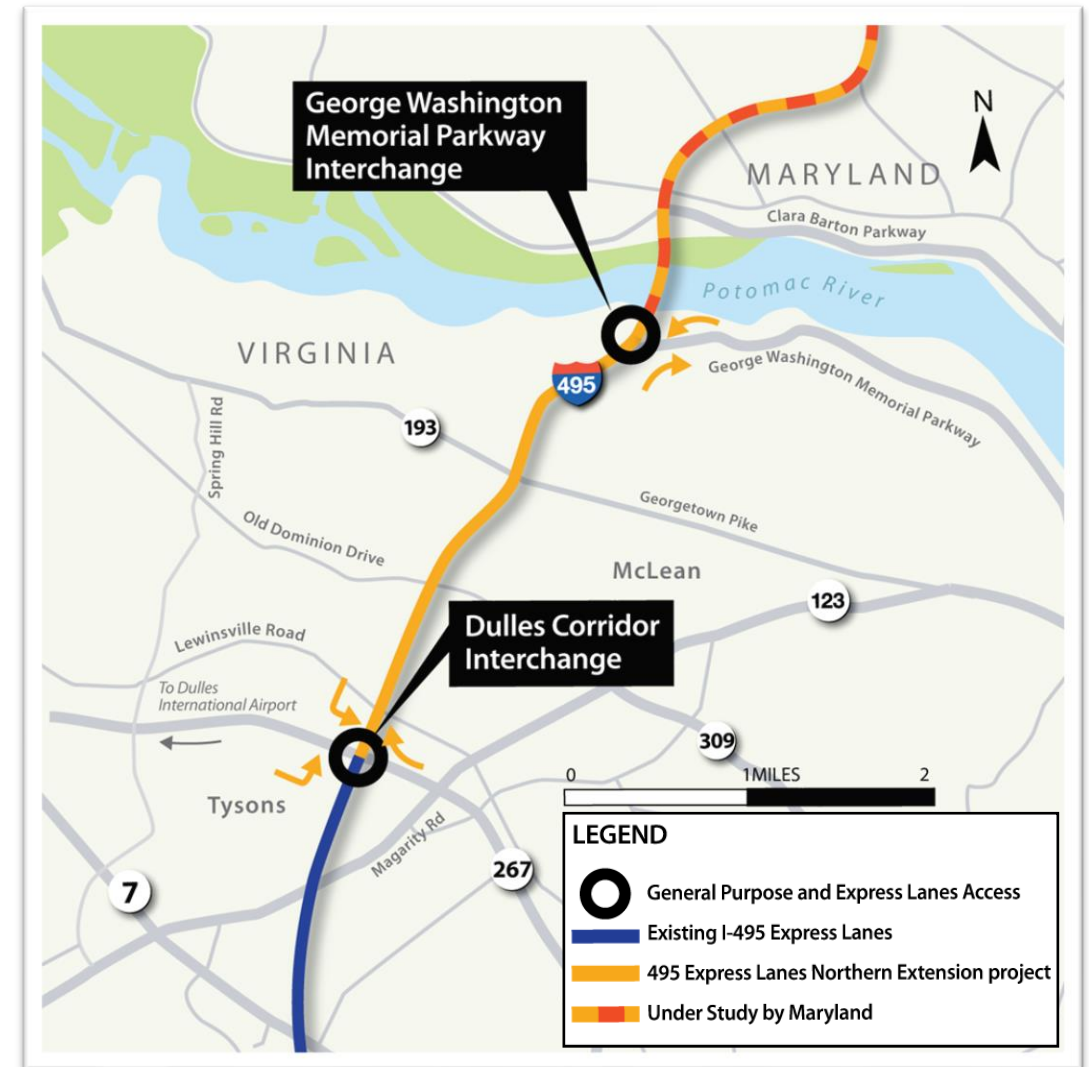


Virginia Department of Transportation  
Transurban  
Lane Construction

October 29, 2024

# 495 NEXT Project Overview

- Approx. \$660 million, 2.5-mile extension of 495 Express Lanes from Dulles Corridor interchange to George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) near the American Legion Bridge
- Public-private partnership project between VDOT and Transurban through 2087
- Construction began in March 2022
- Express lanes to open in late 2025
- Project completion in mid-2026



# Construction Update

- **I-495 (Capital Beltway) traffic scheduled to be shifted in phases onto new outside lanes; begin construction of new express lanes: Early 2025**
- **Continued progress replacing old bridges with upgraded, new bridges featuring sidewalks and trail connections**
  - **Shifted Live Oak Drive traffic onto new bridge and demolished old bridge: August 2024**
  - **Shifted Georgetown Pike traffic onto northern portion of new bridge: August 2024 / Complete demolition of old bridge**
  - **New Old Dominion Drive Bridge to open and demolish old bridge: Early 2025**
  - **Bridge demolition over I-495 requires multi-lane closures and stoppages, and must occur at night**
- **New noise wall installation: Approx. 45% complete**



Top: Crews perform earthwork, enabling new outside lanes to be built (June 2024)

Bottom: New Live Oak Drive Bridge (Sept. 2024)



# Revegetation Plan Update

- Presented Revegetation Plan to public at Project Update Meetings (April 8 & 11)
- Held Public Drop-In Hours seeking feedback (May 23 & 30, June 20 & 27, July 18 & 25, August 15 & 22, September 19 & 26)
- Presented plan & answered questions at McLean Citizens Association Environment, Park & Recreation Committee Meeting (June 12)
- Fielded ongoing email and phone correspondence (April-October 2024)

## Public Input Themes:

- Requests for as much year-round vegetative screening as possible
- Using vegetation to limit views of noise walls
- Questions about maintenance and warranty of plantings
- Trees preferred over shrubs
- Specific requests near individual properties

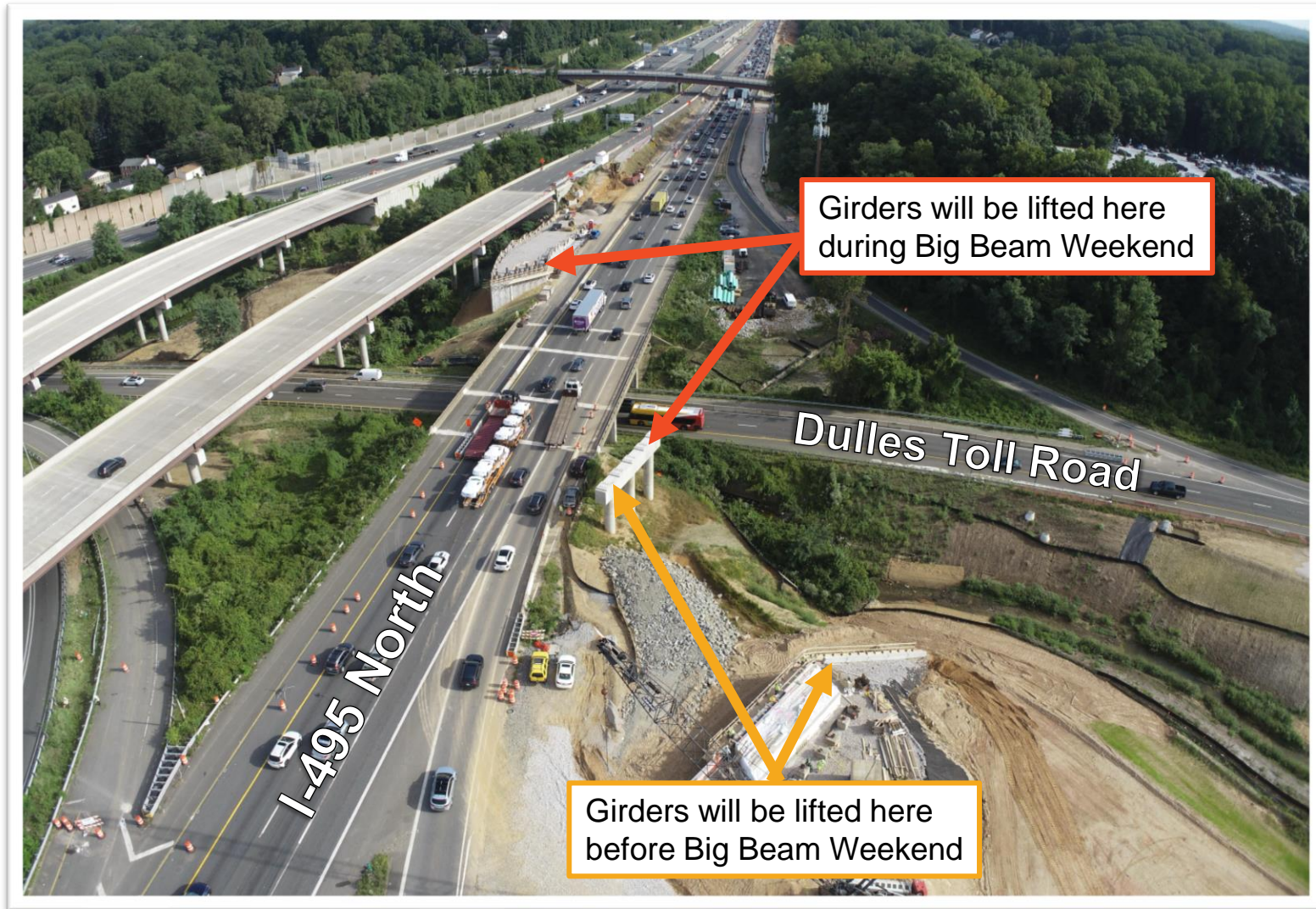


Sample Evergreen Plant Materials



# The Big Beam Weekend: Overview

- Installing 5 large bridge girders over northbound I-495 (Beltway Inner Loop) at the Dulles Corridor Interchange for new 495 Express Lanes ramp
- Weekend-long operation that will impact traffic on northbound I-495 near Tysons from approximately Route 7 until just past Lewinsville Road
- Northbound Beltway traffic reduced to 2 lanes and diverted to express lanes near Tysons
- Scheduled to occur in late January 2025

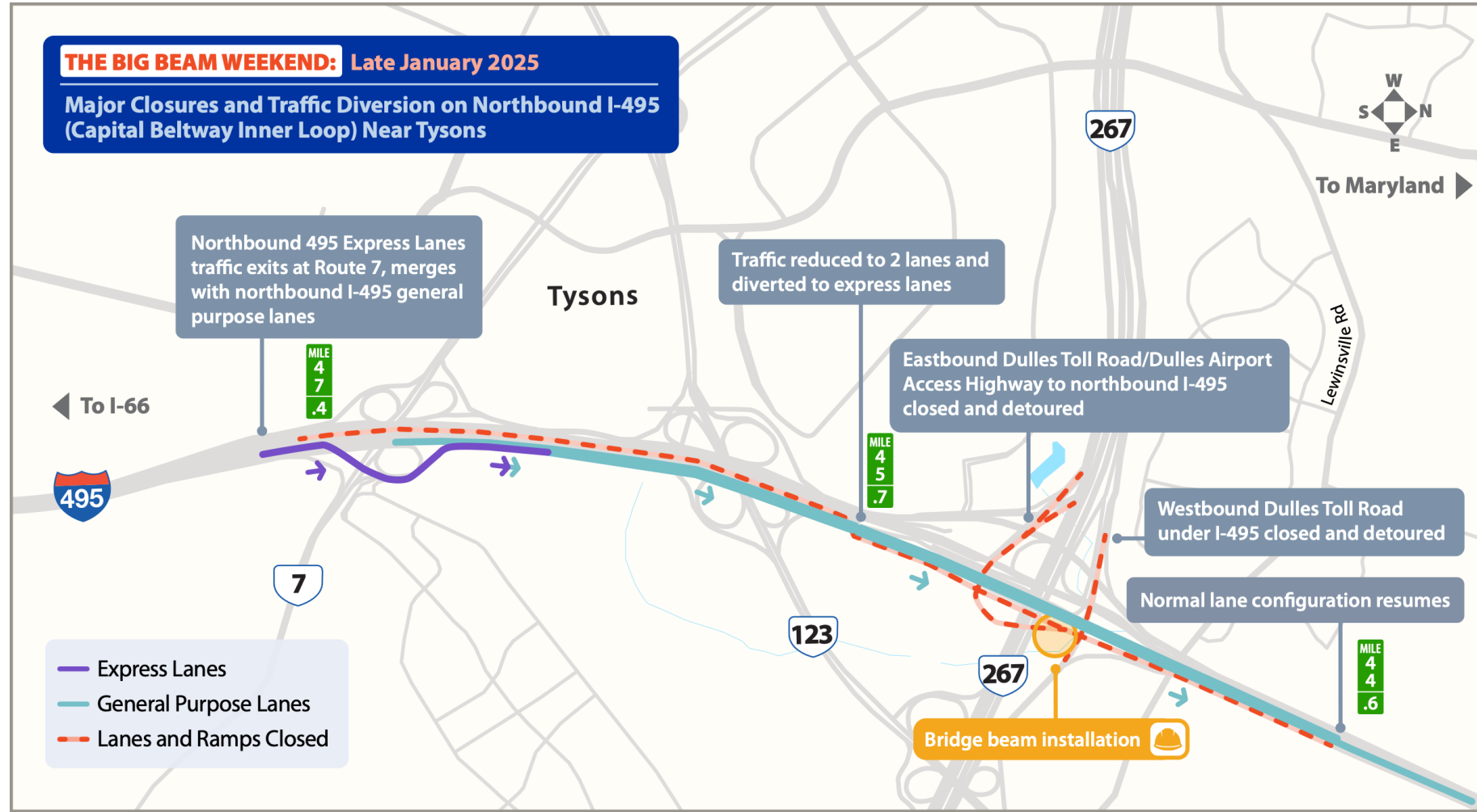


# Why a Weekend-Long Operation?

- **Shortened duration of impacts on travelers**
- **Ability to concentrate public awareness into one weekend versus recurring weekends, and motivate drivers to avoid area**
- **Allows crews time to complete girder operation and continue progress on ramp, which will provide access between Dulles Corridor and 495 Express Lanes**

# Lane Closures and Traffic Impacts

- Weekend beginning Friday night through early Monday morning
- Weather dependent
- All lanes will reopen before Monday morning rush hour
- NB I-495 traffic shifts and lane reductions for approx. 3 miles
- Closures and detours affecting Dulles Toll Road/ Dulles Access Road





# Operations and Incident Management Planning

- Coordination with and on-site support from VDOT traffic operations, contractor, Virginia State Police, Fairfax County Police Department and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
- On-site safety service patrols and tow-truck service to respond and clear incidents
- Providing maps of emergency access points to first responders
- Monitoring of traffic signals and adjustments if necessary



Safety service patrols provide assistance to motorists and help clear traffic incidents quickly



# Communications and Public Outreach Approach

- Robust outreach campaign to inform travelers of lane closures and impacts
- **Public *Call to Action*:** Avoid affected area and adjust travel plans; plan ahead and stay informed if travel is unavoidable
- **Key target audiences:** Travelers (local, regional and long-distance), Dulles Airport drivers, local communities
- Updates shared with traveling public and stakeholders during weekend via social and traditional media
- **Sample Tactics:**
  - Paid media campaign including radio and digital ads, and targeted social media
  - Earned media campaign including news releases, reporter outreach and organic social media posts (amplified by partners sharing)
  - Coordination with navigation apps, including Google Maps and Waze
  - Highway roadway message signs to inform local, regional and statewide drivers



# Next Steps

- **Continue project-level planning**
- **Continue coordination with external agencies and partners**
- **Brief first responders and operations/incident management agencies**
- **Develop communications and outreach content**
- **Deploy public outreach campaign**
- **Notify agencies and partners of final details and confirmed dates and timing**

