

For Immediate Release
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**Portion of Mount Vernon Bike Trail in Alexandria to Close Temporarily
On or About Monday, August 13th**
*Closure Necessary for Overhead Work on New Wilson Bridge;
Affects South Royal & South Streets Connection through Jones Point Park;
Access Available Via South Washington Street*

The portion of the Mount Vernon Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail that connects South Royal and South Streets through Jones Point Park in Alexandria, Virginia will be temporarily closed starting as early as next Monday, August 13 until August 24. The temporary closure of this section of trail, known as the “Abutment Trail,” is necessary to safely accommodate overhead work on the second new Woodrow Wilson Bridge near the Virginia abutment. Crews will be hanging large steel beams – up to 114 feet long, 12 feet tall and 22 inches wide – between the support piers and bridge abutment in Virginia.

During the closure, detour signs will direct trail users across the South Washington Street Deck for north- and southbound access on the Mount Vernon Trail at the Capital Beltway. Bicyclists must dismount for a short distance between the Washington Street Deck and Church Street. Trail users are urged to use caution. In addition:

- The temporary trail located behind the Hunting Towers Apartment Complex tennis courts will be removed and restored to green space as early as next Monday, August 13. Removal of this temporary trail will facilitate construction of a new wetland creation site adjacent to Hunting Creek.
- During the closure, access to the Jones Point Park Lighthouse and southern Jones Point Park will be available via South Street, which is adjacent to the Hunting Towers Apartment Complex.
- Once the Abutment Trail is reopened on or about August 24, trail users should use South Street rather than South Washington Street for the Mount Vernon Trail.
- Intermittent closures of the Abutment Trail will occur from August 25 through late September 2007 to allow workers to complete final details of the bridge steel setting and decking process. These periodic closures will occur at intervals of up to 30 minutes on weekdays between the hours of 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Flaggers will be stationed on both sides of the trail for safety.
- Jones Point Drive, which connects South Royal Street to Jones Point Park, remains closed to the public.

Next week’s steel setting enables final work to occur on the second new Wilson Bridge. The new northern span is scheduled to open in summer 2008 and will carry I-95/I-495 South (Inner Loop) traffic. The overall Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project currently is 75 percent complete.

See Next Page for Detailed Map of Trail Closure and Detour

Mount Vernon Trail Closures & Detours: August 2007

