

North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

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Drivers, boaters and trail users need to be cautious near Memorial Bridge

Bismarck – Drivers, recreation trail users and boaters need to be aware of traffic changes around the Memorial Bridge construction site. Of particular concern is boating traffic at the bridge site. Doug Fercho, North Dakota Department of Transportation project engineer said today that boaters have been disregarding the no-wake zone. “Some have slowed down, but they’re still kicking up enough of a wake to even move a barge,” he said.

People who are using the sandbar on the Bismarck side of the river have wandered in to the construction zone, an area that is closed to all but construction workers. This weekend’s warm weather could mean more people using the sandbar, and they need to stay out of the construction area at the bridge site for their own safety, Fercho said.

The weekend’s nice weather may also increase the amount of people using the recreation trail along Bismarck’s River Road. A short section of about 30 feet of the trail at the work area is set to be repaved perhaps as early as this weekend. Until then, a rough section of pavement near the protective canopy will require trail users and especially in-line skaters to be cautious.

Drivers will also need to be alert in the work area. Eastbound drivers on Memorial Highway in Mandan will not be able to access northbound Bismarck Expressway. That loop is closed and detour signs will direct drivers to 46th Street, then to McKenzie Avenue to access Bismarck Expressway.

Northbound drivers on Bismarck Expressway also will not be able to exit to Memorial Highway. That ramp is to be closed next week. Signs will direct drivers to a detour on McKenzie Avenue to 46th Street to access Memorial Highway.

Commuters on Memorial Highway in Mandan and Main Avenue in Bismarck may experience a slowdown. The two lanes east bound and two lanes west bound will both be reduced to one lane east and west bound. Part of the roadway will be closed and drivers will cross over to the other roadway in one lane head to head traffic.

The intersection of Main Avenue, Memorial Highway and Fraine Barracks road in Bismarck will also be further restricted. Reduced to one lane both directions, the designated turning lanes will be closed next week and that could mean slower passage through the intersection if drivers ahead are waiting to make a turn. Drivers are urged to allow extra time or to use alternate routes. The lane changes will remain until summer of 2008.

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