

From: VDOT News
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Subject: Hampton Roads Traffic Alert 1:30 p.m.



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

November 13, 2009

RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**
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UPDATE: 1:30 p.m.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CURRENT ROADWAY CONDITIONS FOR HAMPTON ROADS

SUFFOLK – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) encourages motorists to avoid driving if at all possible. If motorists find it is necessary to use area roads, they should stay alert for fallen trees, limbs, and roadway debris and use extreme caution while traveling throughout the region.

Interstate roadways continue to be passable; however access is still limited in many areas due to flooding on city streets and ramps. New information highlighted in *italics*:

- 64 EB to 15th View
- 64 WB to 15th View
- 264 EB to Campostella
- 264 EB to Effingham
- 264 EB to Tidewater Drive
- 264 WB to City Hall/St. Paul's Boulevard
- 264 WB to Brambleton
- 264 WB to Campostella
- 664 SB to Terminal Avenue

The High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) reversible roadway has not been reversed due to power outages and continues in the eastbound direction. The HOV reversible roadway will continue to remain in the eastbound direction through the lunch hour.

The Chincoteague Causeway, Route 175 in Accomac County is now open.

Several rural and primary roads are impassable due to high water and debris on the roadway. Motorists should use extreme caution and visit www.511virginia.org or call the Traffic Information

Line at 757-361-3016.

Speeds have been reduced at most of the area bridges. Motorists should be alert for speed reductions. VDOT reports the following conditions at area bridges and tunnels:

Route 17	Coleman Bridge	OPEN North and South
I-64	Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel	OPEN East and West
I-64	High Rise Bridge	OPEN East and West
I-664	Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel	OPEN East and West
I-264	Downtown Tunnel	OPEN East with no delays West reduced to one lane

Westbound right lane will be closed temporarily for pumping activities. There is no standing water in the tunnel, and the pump system is functioning properly. Motorists should expect a single lane closure on I-264 West beginning on the Berkeley Bridge.

Route 17 James River Bridge **CLOSED** North and South ***through evening rush hour***
The Route 17 James River Bridge will remain closed through *evening rush hour* Friday as tide waters on the Isle of Wight side of the bridge are still blocking the roadway. Motorists should anticipate the James River Bridge to remain closed until tides recede to a safe level. An alternate route is the I-664 Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel.

Route 58 Midtown Tunnel **CLOSED** East and West ***through next tidal cycle***

The Midtown Tunnel will remain closed *through the next tidal cycle* due to high tides that have not receded in the surrounding area. Motorists should anticipate the Midtown Tunnel to remain closed until tides recede to a safe level, and use the I-264 Downtown Tunnel as an alternate route. Crews are on-hand monitoring the situation. Opening the tunnel is tide dependant. The next tidal cycle is expected to be comparable to previous high tides and could cause tidal waters to enter the open cut. The next high tide at Sewells Point is this afternoon at 12:18 p.m. Crews will assess the tidal waters after the high tide to determine whether the Midtown Tunnel is safe for the traveling public.

Route 31 Jamestown Scotland Ferry **SUSPENDED SERVICE** ***through evening rush hour***

Jamestown-Scotland Ferry service will *remain suspended through evening rush hour* due to high tides and wind. Motorists should anticipate the ferry to remain closed until tides recede enough to allow ferry landing gear to safely mount the dock for automobile boarding. The suggested detour route from the Peninsula to the Southside is Route 5 West to the Judith Stewart Dresser Memorial Bridge in James City and Charles City Counties to Route 106/156 South. Motorists can then take the Benjamin Harrison Bridge to Route 10 East to Surry.

Safety of the traveling public and the security of our facilities is our primary concern. If water levels continue to rise we will need to re-evaluate the need to close the remaining tunnels if the tide levels threaten these critical facilities.

VDOT will continue to monitor roadway conditions into the night as crews have been placed on a 12-hour rotation schedule throughout the completion of the storm.

Motorists are encouraged to call 511 or listen to Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) 610 AM or call the Traffic Information Line at 757-361-3016 for current traffic and travel information.

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