



# News Release

January 24, 2007

For Immediate Release  
2006 Road Construction Season

## **An Agreement Reached with County and USCG regarding County Bridge**

**Wayne County** — After months of discussions, an agreement has been reached regarding construction on the of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge in Wayne County. The United States Coast Guard issued a letter to Wayne County outlining the upcoming closing of Grosse Ile Free Bridge. Grosse Ile Parkway Bridge will be closed tentatively from April until November due to construction and all traffic to and from Grosse Ile will be over the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge. To help alleviate the expected traffic increase, Wayne County and the U.S. Coast Guard agreed to limit the opening of the toll bridge for recreational boat traffic. The Michigan Department of Transportation will bid out the project and Wayne County will be responsible for design and construction oversight.

"We have been working with the Coast Guard, under the direction of Department of Public Services Director, James Jackson, to limit boat traffic through the channel during peak traffic times," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "This will help us move traffic more efficiently across the toll bridge during peak traffic hours during weekdays. We believe that the letter from the Coast Guard is a great compromise and workable."

During construction, the toll bridge will not be opened for recreational boat traffic during the peak hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Commercial vessels will be asked to provide a one-hour notice in advance before arrival. The bridge will swing on the hour rather than the half hour during construction. .

"I am pleased that Wayne County and the U.S. Coast Guard were able to reach an agreement that is going to help make auto travel on the bridge safe, convenient and efficient for all of our residents," State Representative Kathleen Law (D-Gibraltar) who was involved in the talks between Wayne County and the U.S. Coast Guard. "This plan will help ease Island car traffic congestion at rush hours and marginally affect the boating community. Boaters, please begin to consider how these necessary alterations will affect your departure and arrival times at dockage on the Trenton Channel". More information will be available as the schedules are set and the construction phase begins on the Grosse Ile Parkway Bridge.

### For additional **media inquiries or to set up interviews**, call Vanessa Denha-Garmo at 313-213-5274.

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