Public statements will only be considered if time permits.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 15, 2013.

Valerie S. Watson,
Co-Chair, Aeronautical Charting Forum.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration
[Docket No. FHWA–2013–0015]

2013 Temporary Closure of I–395 Just South of Conway Street in the City of Baltimore to Vehicular Traffic To Accommodate the Construction and Operation of the Baltimore Grand Prix

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The FHWA has approved a request from the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) to temporarily close a portion of I–395 (just south of Conway Street in Baltimore City) from approximately 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, until approximately 6 a.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. The closure is requested to accommodate the construction and operation of the Baltimore Grand Prix (BGP), which will use the streets of downtown Baltimore as a race course.

The approval is granted in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR 658.11 which authorizes the deletion of segments of the federally designated routes that make up the National Network designated in Appendix A of 23 CFR Part 658. The FHWA published a Notice and Request for Comment on May 13, 2013, seeking comments from the general public on this request submitted by the MDTA for a deletion in accordance with 23 CFR 658.11(d). No comments were received.

DATES: Effective Date(s)

For Further Information Contact: Ms. Crystal Jones, Office of Freight Management and Operations, Office of Operations, (202) 366–2976, Mr. Bill Winne, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366–0791, Federal Highway Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, and Mr. Gregory Murrill, FHWA Division Administrator—DELMAR Division, (410) 962–4440. Office hours for the FHWA are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access and Filing

You may retrieve a copy of the Notice and Request for Comment, comments submitted to the docket, and a copy of this final notice through the Federal eRulemaking portal at: http://www.regulations.gov. The Web site is available 24 hours each day, every day of the year. Electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of the Web site.


Background

The MDTA submitted a request to the FHWA for approval of the temporary closure of I–395 just south of Conway Street in the city of Baltimore from the period beginning Wednesday, August 28, at approximately 7 p.m. through Tuesday, September 3, at around 6 a.m., encompassing the Labor Day holiday. This closure will be undertaken in support of the BGP which will use the streets of downtown Baltimore as a race course. The MDTA is the owner and operator of I–395 and I–95 within the city of Baltimore.

The FHWA is responsible for enforcing the Federal regulations applicable to the National Network of highways that can safely and efficiently accommodate the large vehicles authorized by provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, as amended, designated in accordance with 23 CFR Part 658 and listed in Appendix A. In accordance with 23 CFR 658.11, the FHWA may approve deletions or restrictions of the Interstate system or other National Network route based upon specified justification criteria in section 658.11(d)(2). Requests for deletions are published in the Federal Register for notice and comment.

Notice and Request for Comment

The FHWA published a Notice and Request for Comment on May 13, seeking comments from the general public on this request submitted by the MDTA for a deletion in accordance with 23 CFR 658.11(d). The comment period closed on June 12. No comments were received.

The FHWA sought comments on this request for temporary deletion from the National Network in accordance with 23 CFR 658.11(d). Specifically, the request is for approval of the temporary closure of I–395 just south of Conway Street in the city of Baltimore from the period beginning Wednesday August 28, at approximately 7 p.m. through Tuesday, September 3, at around 6 a.m., encompassing the Labor Day holiday.

This closure will be undertaken in support of the BGP which will use the streets of downtown Baltimore as a race course. The 2013 event is expected to attract 160,000 spectators over a 3–4 day period, not including the event organizer workforce and volunteers, the racing organizations and their respective personnel, or media and vendors. Event planners expect spectators from within a 400-mile radius of the city, with a large portion traveling the I–95 corridor. It is anticipated that the attendance for the peak day (Sunday) will reach 70,000 people with most arriving by private vehicle.

The construction and operation of the race course will create safety concerns by obstructing access from the I–395 northern terminus to the local street system including Howard Street, Conway Street, and Lee Street. However, an existing connection from I–395 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard will remain open throughout the event. In addition, access to and from I–95 into and out of the city along alternative access routes, including US 1, US 40, Russell Street, and Washington Boulevard will be maintained. The BGP and the city plan to update the 2012 signing plan to inform and guide motorists to, through, and around the impacted downtown area. The statewide Coordinated Highways Action Response Team, will provide real-time traffic information to motorists through dynamic message signs and highway advisory radio. The MDTA states that the temporary closure of this segment of I–395 to general traffic should have no impact on Interstate commerce. I–95, the main north-south Interstate route in the region, will remain open during the time period of the event. There are five additional I–95 interchanges, just to the north or south of I–395, with connections to the local street system including the arterials servicing the city’s downtown area. A sign and supplemental traffic control systems plan was developed as part of the 2011 event’s Traffic Management Plan (TMP). In addition, I–695 (Baltimore Beltway) will provide motorists traveling through the region the ability to bypass the impact area by circling around the city.

Commercial motor vehicles of the dimensions and configurations described in 23 CFR 658.13 and 658.15 which serve the impacted area, may use the alternate routes listed above.
Vehicles servicing the businesses bordering the impacted area will still be able to do so by also using the alternative routes noted above to circulate around the restricted area. In addition, vehicles not serving businesses in the restricted area but, currently using I–395 and the local street system to reach their ultimate destinations, will be able to use the I–95 interchanges north and south of I–395 to access the alternative routes. A map depicting the alternative routes is available electronically at the docket established for this notice at http://www.regulations.gov. The MDTA has reviewed these alternative routes and determined the routes to generally be capable of safely accommodating the diverted traffic during the period of temporary restriction. As mentioned previously, the sign and supplemental traffic control system plan is also being updated as part of the event’s TMP. Commercial vehicles as well as general traffic leaving the downtown area will also be able to use the alternative routes to reach I–95 and the rest of the Interstate System. The BGP and the city are working closely with businesses, including the hotels and restaurants located within the impact area, to schedule deliveries prior to the proposed I–395 closure to the extent feasible. The BGP is also working with affected businesses to schedule delivery services during the event period.

The original plan uses a credentialing process for access through designated gates with access to specific loading areas. This request to temporarily close I–395 was prepared for the MDTA by the BGP and the city. In addition, the city has reached out to the Federal, BGP and the city. In addition, the Federal, Operations, (202) 366–2976, Mr. Bill Winne, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366–0791, Federal Highway Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, and Mr. Richard Marquis, FHWA Division Administrator-Indiana Division, (317) 226–7483. Office hours for the FHWA are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA–2013–0036]

2013 Temporary Closure of I–65 (I–70/ I–65 South Split Interchange) in the City of Indianapolis

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Final Notice.

SUMMARY: The FHWA has approved a request from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to temporarily close a 2-mile portion of I–65 in Indiana (from I–70/I–65 south split interchange to I–70/I–65 north split interchange) for a period of 93 days, from Wednesday, August 21, to Thursday, November 21, 2013. The closure is requested to accommodate the reconstruction of the Virginia Avenue Bridge, which consists of replacing the northbound and southbound bridge girders and lowering the pavement section from south of Morris Street to north of Fletcher Avenue.

The approval is granted in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR 658.11 which authorizes the deletion of segments of the federally designated routes that make up the National Network designated in Appendix A of 23 CFR Part 658. The FHWA published a Notice and Request for Comment on July 1, 2013, seeking comments from the public on this request submitted by the INDOT for a deletion in accordance with 23 CFR 658.11(d). No comments were received.

DATES: Effective Date: This Notice is effective immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Crystal Jones, Office of Freight Management and Operations, Office of Operations, (202) 366–2976, Mr. Bill Winne, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366–0791, Federal Highway Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, and Mr. Richard Marquis, FHWA Division Administrator-Indiana Division, (317) 226–7483. Office hours for the FHWA are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Electronic Access and Filing

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Background

The INDOT submitted a request to the FHWA for approval of the temporary closure of a segment of I–65, from the I–70/I–65 south split interchange to the I–70/I–65 north split interchange, for a period of 93 days, from the period beginning Wednesday, August 21, through Thursday, November 21. This closure will be undertaken in support of the reconstruction of the Virginia Avenue Bridge, which consists of replacing the northbound and southbound bridge girders and lowering the pavement section from south of Morris Street to north of Fletcher Avenue.

The FHWA is responsible for enforcing the Federal regulations applicable to the National Network of highways that can safely and efficiently accommodate the large vehicles authorized by provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, as amended, designated in accordance with 23 CFR Part 658 and listed in Appendix A. In accordance with 23 CFR 658.11, the FHWA may approve deletions or restrictions of the Interstate system or other National Network route based upon specified justification criteria in section 658.11(d)(2). Requests for deletions are published in the Federal Register for notice and comment.

Notice and Request for Comment

The FHWA published a Notice and Request for Comment on July 1, seeking comments from the general public on this request submitted by the INDOT for a deletion in accordance with 23 CFR 658.11(d). The comment period closed on July 31. No comments were received.

The FHWA sought comments on this request for temporary deletion from the National Network in accordance with 23 CFR 658.11(d). Specifically, the request is for approval of the temporary closure.