



# **Back to School Safety Message**

# From the I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) Project Team

The I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project is extending the existing 495 Express Lanes north by 2.5 miles from the Dulles Corridor interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway interchange in the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge. This initiative is a public-private partnership project between the Virginia Department of Transportation and Transurban, operator of the existing 495 Express Lanes. Lane Construction is the design-build contractor for the project.

#### 495 NEXT is Under Construction

It is important for students, parents, caregivers, faculty and staff returning to Cooper Middle School, Churchill Road Elementary School and Langley High School to be aware of:

- Lane shifts on local roads such as Georgetown Pike, Old Dominion Drive and Live Oak Drive
- Periodic flagging operations on local roads directing traffic in alternating directions
- Changes to traffic patterns including possible adjustments to crosswalks and traffic signals
- Large construction vehicles and equipment
- Mid-day single lane closures on I-495 (the Capital Beltway)

## Tips to stay safe while traveling through the 495 NEXT construction area:

- Avoid Distractions Put away your phone and limit other distractions such as changing the radio station and eating while driving.
- Slow Down Keep yourself and others safe by reducing your speed and staying alert to traffic and roadway changes.
- Leave Earlier Allow extra time for your commute to account for unexpected delays or incidents.
- Look Out for Others Stay alert to pedestrians and bicyclists, especially children who may be less familiar with the rules of the road. Also, stay alert for 495 NEXT crews who are working near traffic along the corridor.
- Follow the Signs Signs and sometimes flaggers will direct you through work zones. Expect changes in traffic patterns as the 495 NEXT project progresses.

Thank you for your patience as our team makes every effort to minimize community impacts while building the project as safely and efficiently as possible.

## **Stay Connected**



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495NEXT.org



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