



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
NEWS RELEASE

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**GOVERNOR RELL, DOT BREAK GROUND ON THE NEW 'SIGNATURE'
PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

NEWINGTON, Conn. – Governor M. Jodi Rell and State Transportation Commissioner Joseph F. Marie took up shovels today in a ceremony marking the start of construction of the New Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, June 20, at 1:00 PM at 74 Forbes Avenue in New Haven**. The site is located on Route 1, on the northeast approach to the Tomlinson Bridge.

The joint venture of Cianbro / Middlesex is the contractor. The \$137 million contract is part of the I-95 New Haven Harbor Crossing Corridor Improvement Program and will take approximately three years to complete. "Contract B1" includes the first phase of the main river pier foundations for the extradosed cable-stayed portion of the new bridge. The contract also includes the Northbound I-95 west approach structure and local road reconstruction including roadway, drainage and traffic signal improvements.

"This is a major investment in Connecticut's economy and for the thousands of commuters who stream through this corridor every day," Governor Rell said. "In fact, the New Haven Harbor Crossing Corridor Improvement Program is one of the largest transportation initiatives ever undertaken here in Connecticut. And it is another boost in our effort to provide our commuters and the businesses to which they travel a 21st Century transportation system."

"This will be a signature structure for Connecticut and the first of its kind in our state – a 10-lane bridge with an extradosed cable-stayed main span," Commissioner Marie said, noting that the existing bridge opened 50 years ago, in 1958, designed for 40,000 vehicles a day. "Today, the count is 120,000 a day, and that will grow to 140,000 by 2015. So this new bridge is needed now and far into the future."

The construction will be accomplished 'off-line' from I-95, which will help minimize impacts to interstate traffic. Any lane closures on the interstate will take place at night only; local roads may be affected during the daytime, but there are no planned closures on I-95 between 6 AM and 8 PM. Lane closures will also be restricted during weekends and holiday periods, especially during the summer months. Real-time updates will be available on the Program web site, www.i95newhaven.com. The site

will be updated daily to alert drivers of detours, lane closures and other construction activities.

The I-95 New Haven Harbor Crossing Corridor Improvement Program includes operational, safety and capacity improvements to 7.2 miles of I-95 between Exit 46 (Sargent Drive) in New Haven and Exit 54 (Cedar Street) in Branford, and transit enhancements including the new Shore Line East commuter rail station at State Street in New Haven.

For more information please visit the Program web site (www.i95newhaven.com), or call the Program construction hotline toll-free at 866-277-9595.