

NEWS RELEASE

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Memorial Drive to be Closed Temporarily As Rosemont Bridge Takes Shape *Road Closure scheduled for Friday, October 15 through Sunday, October 17, 2010*

Memorial Drive between Waugh and Bagby will be closed beginning at midnight on Friday, October 15, through midnight Sunday, October 17, 2010, for construction work on the Rosemont Bridge Project. Citizens are advised to use either Washington Avenue or Allen Parkway as detour routes for travel to and from downtown this weekend. When completed, the Rosemont Bridge will span Memorial Drive and Buffalo Bayou and connect the two sides of Buffalo Bayou Park.

"I am very pleased with the progress of the Rosemont Bridge," said Mayor Annise Parker. "These final segments, which will be put in place over the next month, will connect the two sides of Buffalo Bayou Park and provide pedestrians, bicyclists and joggers with a safe route across Memorial Drive to Buffalo Bayou Park."

Three 30,000- to 40,000-pound beams will arrive by truck early Saturday morning between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Beginning at daylight, a 300-ton crane will be used to hang the three sections of the bridge. One section will span Memorial Drive and the two other sections will be added to the bridge on the North Bank of Buffalo Bayou.

"The Rosemont Bridge project and its partner projects involved in this effort will give our park users more trails and alternate routes to get to Buffalo Bayou Park, Spotts Park, and, eventually, Memorial Park," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "It shows how green corridors and linear parks can be used to move people from one area to another without ever having to use a car."

Once the beams are hung, contractors will begin the installation of the bridge's floor and the deck slab and the electrical, lighting and rails will be installed.

"The Mayor and the City have actively supported the project and helped us to move it forward quickly and efficiently," said Ann Lents, Board Member, Memorial Heights TIRZ. "The bridge will give neighborhoods north of Memorial easy access to the Bayou and be a catalyst for growth. What works here on Buffalo Bayou can work on the other bayous, too."

The Rosemont Bridge Project is one part of five CIP projects that were designed and bid and are being constructed in one package. The projects include the Rosemont Pedestrian Bridge, Extended Trail Connectors, the Old Sixth Ward Connector, Shepherd Underpass to Memorial, and the Spotts Park Hydrology Project. The total budget for all five projects is \$5,988,935.

Groundbreaking for the Rosemont Bridge was on March 13, 2010, and expected completion date is January 2011. Millis Development and Construction, Inc. is the general contractor for the project. Scheduled lane closure dates are as follows:

- ♦ **Saturday, October 16, 2010 – Full Lane Closure: Memorial Drive between Waugh and Bagby, midnight Friday, October 15 to midnight Sunday, October 17, 2010.** Three sections of the bridge scheduled to be delivered and erected, one section that spans Memorial Drive and two sections on the North Bank of Buffalo Bayou.
- ♦ **Saturday, October 23, 2010 – Northbound Lane Closure: Studemont Bridge.** One section of the bridge (widest) will be delivered and offloaded from Studemont Bridge and placed onto the South Bank of Buffalo Bayou.
- ♦ **Wednesday, October 27, 2010 – Lane Closure: Studemont Exit Ramp from Allen Parkway.** Two sections of Rosemont Bridge will be delivered and erected on South Bank of Buffalo Bayou.
- ♦ **Thursday, October 28, 2010 – Lane Closure: Studemont Exit Ramp from Allen Parkway.** Three sections of the bridge will be delivered and erected on South Bank of Buffalo Bayou. Four sections of the bridge will be installed, one that was previously delivered on Saturday, October 23, and the three sections delivered on this date.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.