**Colonial Parkway October 24, 2024 Public Meeting Recording Script**

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Welcome, this is the presentation given at the October 24, 2024 public meeting for the rehabilitation of Colonial Parkway by the National Park Service, Federal Highway Administration, and the Wagman-JMT Design Build Team

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Purpose of the presentation – the purpose of the presentation is to provide project background; provide project schedule and planned detour routes; and provide project contact information. This information will help you know what to expect for closures and detours over the remaining 20 months of the project.

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Project background - Colonial Parkway is a twenty-three-mile scenic roadway stretching from the York River at Yorktown to the James River at Jamestown. The National Park Service owns and maintains the Parkway surface, including a 500-foot right-of-way. The Parkway was built in the 1930’s through the 1950’s. This will be the first major pavement rehabilitation undertaken since the original construction. Through the Great American Outdoors Act, Colonial National Historical Park has secured Legacy Restoration Funds to repair and maintain a ten-mile section of the Colonial Parkway.

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Project background continued - Because of its unique qualities, the Parkway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an All-American Road under the Federal Highway Administration’s National Scenic Byways Program, is a recipient of the distinguished Centennial Medallion of the American Society of Landscape Architects as “one of the finest parkway archetypes in the country”.

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Project Purpose - This vital investment will replace or restore the 70-to-90-year-old Parkway infrastructure; extending its useful life for another 40 to 50 years. The Project will increase visitor access, safety and enjoyment by minimizing road hazards; improving guardrails, shoulders and drainage; providing better signage; improving tunnel lighting; and providing a better experience for drivers, who can enjoy the views instead of dodging potholes.

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Project Scope - This approximately $123 million dollar project will repair and rehabilitate ten miles of the Colonial Parkway including: rehabilitation of pavement and shoulders; repair of eleven bridges and rehabilitation of the Williamsburg Tunnel; improved climate resiliency through better management of stormwater, reconditioning of shoulders and ditches, up-sizing of culverts and armoring of drainage channels; and maintaining the cultural landscape by replicating the historic exposed aggregate pavement and the brick bridges and culvert headwalls.

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Project Location - This slide highlights the overall location of the project with Jamestown on the far left of the map and Yorktown on the far right. Segment G runs from Route 199 to Parkway Drive. Segment F runs from Parkway Drive to Penniman Road. Segment D and E will be discussed as one and runs from Penniman Road to Felgate’s Creek. Segment A runs from Fusiliers Redoubt Ramp to Ballard Street.

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Project Schedule - You saw the segments on the previous slide. Segment G will be done in 4 phases requiring detours. This is being done to provide local traffic, predominantly busses, access to sections of Colonial Parkway for the maximum extent possible. Overall the project is scheduled to be completed prior to Country's 250th anniversary on June 30, 2026. The next several slides will highlight each segment’s overall schedule.

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Segment G extends toward Yorktown from Route 199 to Parkway Drive. Construction on this Segment started in August 2023 and will run until Fall 2025.

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Segment A extends from Yorktown Battlefield to Fusiliers Redoubt Ramp. This Segment started construction in August 2023 and will run until Summer 2025.

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Segments D & E extend from Felgate’s Creek toward Jamestown to Penniman Road. This Segment started construction in Spring 2024 and is set to be completed in early November 2024.

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Segment F fills the gap between Segment E and G, from Penniman Road to Parkway Drive. This Segment will start in November 2024 and run until June 2026.

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Overall, the detour routes and closure sections were developed in coordination with the National Park Service, Federal Highway Administration, City of Williamsburg, and the Virginia Department of Transportation to avoid local streets, maximize use of signal-controlled intersections and provide the fastest detour routes for users. Also note that these detours are designed for all park traffic, but as always if you are local and know a better way, feel free.

We have a handout that details the detours that are available on the project’s website. All “Yorktown” directions are to the Yorktown Visitor’s Center.

All “Williamsburg” directions are to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center. All “Jamestown” directions are to the Jamestown terminus of colonial parkway. This slide shows Parkway closures in Segments D & E that are expected to be removed in early November 2024.

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This slide shows the Parkway closures in Segments G & F that are scheduled to start in November 2024 and run to the Fall of 2025 in Segment G, and to June 2026 in Segment F. If you are travelling from Jamestown to Yorktown you can exit at Route 199, follow Route 199, and reenter the parkway at Penniman Road and vice versa if you are traveling form Yorktown to Jamestown.

The Williamsburg detour routes will take you to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center.

If you are traveling from Jamestown to Williamsburg you can exit at Route 199, follow route 199 to I-64, take I-64 to Route 143, take Route 143 to Route 132, and Route 132 to Visitor’s Center Drive.

If you are traveling from Yorktown to Williamsburg you can exit at Penniman Road, follow Penniman to I-64, take I-64 to Route 143, take Route 143 to Route 132, and Route 132 to Visitor’s Center Drive.

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Lastly as the project progresses and sections of the parkway are completed, we will work closely with the National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration to make modifications for the betterment of the project and park, if required.

The project website will be kept up to date should plans change. The website will also include a Frequently Asked Questions section to address your questions and provide answers.

Any questions or comments can be directed to the project’s email address: colo\_Parkway\_rehab@nps.gov

For more information, please visit the project website at: [www.nps.gov/colo/planyourvisit/colo-parkway-rehab.htm](http://www.nps.gov/colo/planyourvisit/colo-parkway-rehab.htm)

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Thank you for joining and please be in touch if you have questions or require additional information.