VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

Long Bridge Project

Marine Construction Notice | Potomac River – Washington, DC

NOTICE TO MARINERS SEPTEMBER 2026

General Bridges/Construction

Location: 38.87462° N / 77.0386° W

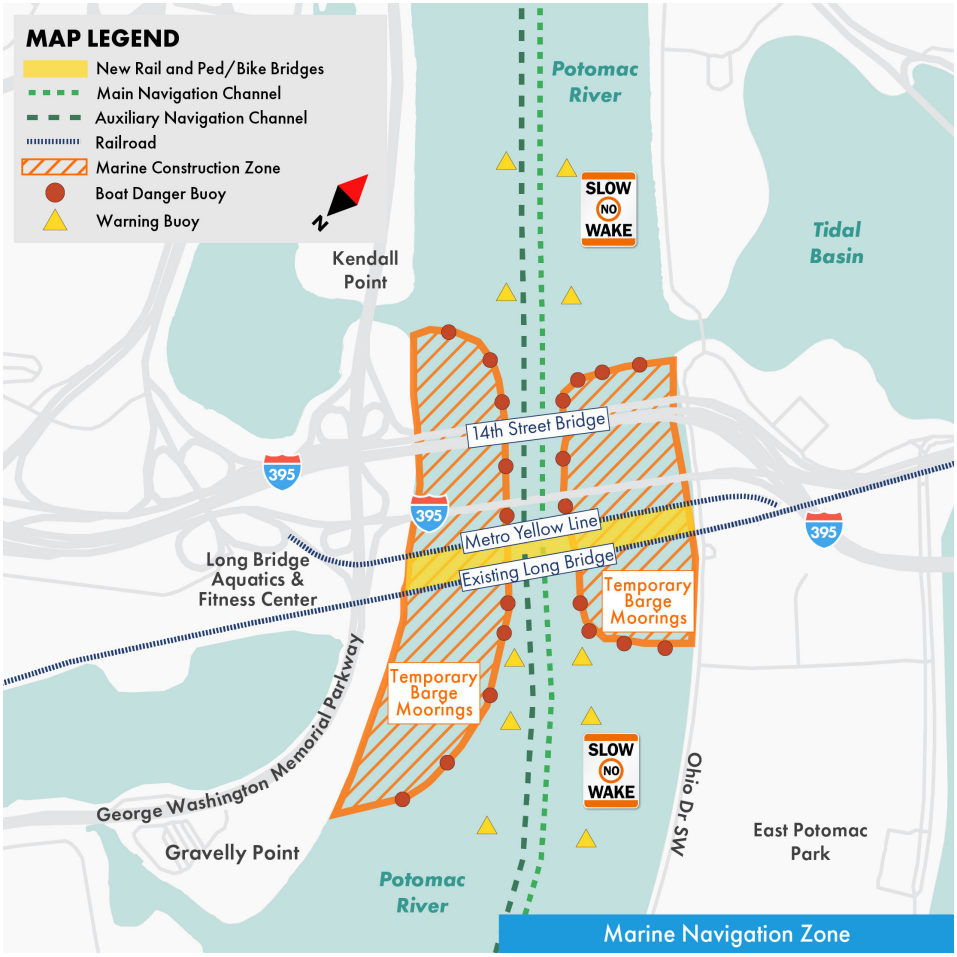
Bridge Name: Long Bridge Railroad Bridge

Beginning in early September, marine traffic will be temporarily routed through the auxiliary channel (west of the current channel). This navigation channel shift will be in place to accommodate the removal of an existing wooden fender system on the Metro Yellow Line Bridge.

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) continues marine work in the Potomac River as part of the Long Bridge Project. Additional buoy and navigation signage has been installed to support ongoing in-water construction operations and to designate updated marine work zones. Work typically takes place between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Warning buoys designate active construction areas, no-wake zones, and the navigable channel through the work area. Mariners should remain outside designated work zones and be aware of moving construction equipment, moored barges, and changing channel conditions.

A separate marine work zone remains active in the Washington Channel, in the vicinity of the CSX and Route 1 (14th Street SW) bridges. Mariner navigation within the Channel is constrained and boater transit beneath the bridges is restricted.



The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's Long Bridge Project is a 1.8-mile rail improvement that will relieve one of the biggest rail bottlenecks on the East Coast. The project will improve reliability and expand capacity for both passenger and freight trains traveling between Virginia and Washington, DC. The project will create a continuous four-track corridor between the Long Bridge Aquatic Center in Arlington County, Virginia and L'Enfant Plaza in Washington DC. It includes five new rail bridges and two new pedestrian/bicycle bridges. A new two-track rail bridge will be built over the Potomac River next to the existing two-track Long Bridge, along with a new bike and pedestrian bridge connecting Long Bridge Park and the Mount Vernon Trail in Arlington to East Potomac Park in DC.

SAFETY FIRST

To ensure the safety of all waterway users and construction personnel:

- Reduce speed to minimize wake.
- Obey all posted signs, navigation markers, and marine warning devices.
- Maintain a safe distance from construction equipment, moving vessels, and moored barges.
- Do not enter restricted areas marked by buoys, signage, or safety barriers.
- Use extreme caution when navigating near the work zone, especially during daylight hours when active operations are ongoing.

Boaters should pay attention to all posted signs and crewmember instructions.



STAY CONNECTED

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