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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mercier Bridge month-long BLITZ starting this weekend EXPECT VERY HEAVY TRAFFIC DURING THE BLITZ

(Kahnawake – 12, Ohiarihkó:wa/July 2013) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is advising road users that <u>The Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated</u> will replace the deck on the federal section of the Mercier Bridge during a major month-long BLITZ from July 13th to August 11th. Work will take place day and night, weekdays and weekends.

The major work will start on **tonight**, **Friday**, **July 12**th **at 9pm**. The Montreal-bound Bridge will be completely closed to traffic to begin replacing the slabs of its deck with new prefabricated concrete slabs. One lane will be open in each direction on the Kahnawà:ke-bound Bridge.

Lane width will also be reduced to 3 metres in each direction. Trucks exceeding this width will have to take alternative routes. Some access ramps on the South Shore side will also be closed during this period.

To view the configuration of the access and exits during the BLITZ, consult the map on <u>www.mercierbridge.ca</u>

Public transit encouraged – dedicated lane created

Road users are strongly encouraged to use the various types of public transit. A dedicated bus lane will be created during the work BLITZ at the bridge approaches on the South Shore side, in order to give buses easier access to the La Prairie access ramp, where all vehicles using the bridge will converge.

CHÂTEAUGUAY BUS - See the CITSO website

A reserved lane will be designated within the detour route for buses leaving from Châteauguay to facilitate access to the Mercier Bridge. Incentive parking in Châteauguay: 499 parking spaces

NEW AutoRoute 30 - See the website

The new AutoRoute 30 is the best option for all west-bound travel, including such destinations as the West Island, Ottawa, Gatineau and Toronto.

Carpooling is also encouraged.

Traffic will be especially difficult during this month of intensive work and using the Champlain and Victoria Bridges will be a good alternative option. For those who wish to take the Champlain Bridge it is suggested to leave earlier on weekdays as it has additional capacity early in the morning and would be a better option at that time.

To follow the work as it progresses visit <u>www.mercierbridge.ca</u>.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDIA

Please mention at your discretion until further notice. For information on this release contact Gene Diabo at 450-632-7500, ext. 2254