



Maine Turnpike News

**For Immediate Release
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July 4th Weekend Traffic Expected to Increase Over Last Year

--In-coming traffic at York expected to increase by 12%--

YORK, MAINE -- Lower gas prices compared with last year, slight improvements in the economy, and the possibility of better weather will boost traffic at the Maine Turnpike's York Toll Plaza over the July 4th weekend (Friday July 3rd through Monday July 6th) compared with 2008.

Working in partnership with the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Center for Tourism Research and Outreach (CENTRO) at the University of Southern Maine is projecting that overall traffic passing through the York Toll Plaza from Friday through Monday will grow by 5% compared with last year. In-coming, northbound traffic at the York Toll Plaza over the four-day weekend is expected to grow by as much as 12% over 2008.

Because July 4th falls on a different day of the week each year, comparing one year to the next can be tricky. Northbound traffic on Friday July 3 is expected to be up by nearly 40% over the same day in 2008. This is primarily due to the fact that July 4th fell on a Friday in 2008 and fewer people traveled on the holiday. With the holiday on Saturday this year, more people are expected to travel on Friday. More than 45,000 vehicles are expected to pass through the York Toll Plaza in the northbound direction on Friday.

York to Augusta

More than 695,000 vehicles are expected to enter the whole of the Turnpike from York to Augusta over the four-day weekend, with some 215,000 vehicles expected to travel the highway on Friday.

Overall Maine Turnpike traffic volumes during the month of June were down about 3% compared to last year. Traffic volumes from January to June are down about 4.4%

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