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PATIENCE & PREPARATION ARE THE KEYS TO STRESS-FREE DRIVING ON INAUGURATION DAY

State Police Will Be Watching For Aggressive and Impaired Drivers

RICHMOND – With major traffic congestion expected on Inauguration Day, Virginia State Police advises drivers to be extra patient and to prepare themselves now for the anticipated gridlock in Northern and Central Virginia on Jan. 20, 2009. The delays could lead to mounting frustration for some motorists, which in turn could lead to aggressive driving.

“Just as you are urged to plan your route ahead of time to get into Washington, you’ll also need to pack your patience that day,” says Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. “Travel time and delays may be extensive on this day as hundreds of thousands of motorists move through the Northern Virginia region. Give yourself ample time to get to your destination, and make sure you and your vehicle are prepared for traffic congestion and back ups. Road rage and aggressive driving behaviors will not be tolerated.”

Virginians in other parts of the state could also encounter residual effects of the expected traffic congestion on Interstates 64 and 95. In addition, Virginians should expect increases in traffic volumes on Monday, Jan. 19, as Inaugural attendees travel into Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., as well as on Wednesday, Jan. 21, as people depart Washington and surrounding areas.

The following tips are to help drivers avoid confrontations with an aggressive driver: *

- Avoid eye contact with an aggressive driver. It could escalate their behavior.
- Make every attempt to safely move out of their way.
- Ignore gestures and do not return them.
- Do not challenge them by trying to speed up or hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- Serious incidents of aggressive driving should be reported to Virginia State Police by calling #77 on a cellular phone.

In addition, as the inaugural festivities get underway and people celebrate, Virginia State Police encourages drivers to make safe, responsible choices when they get behind the wheel. The additional troopers being brought into the Northern Virginia region for the Inauguration will also be patrolling the interstates for impaired drivers.

“If you plan to celebrate this national event, please be responsible and make sure you have a designated driver to get you back home or to your hotel safely,” adds Colonel Flaherty. “With so many people heading to and from the inauguration, every driver and passenger must put safety first.”

- Buckle Up
- Avoid distractions
- Share the road
- Drive drug & alcohol free
- Obey speed limit



* Information from the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration

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