
BRAC Town Hall Meeting

April 20, 2011

Purpose: To give you an Up-To-The-Minute brief on all physical BRAC happenings on the Command grounds including: Construction, Transportation/Parking, Patient Access and Safety issues, and to keep you and "in-the-know" when these issues may affect our day-to-day work at NSA Bethesda.



The pace of construction projects will pick up in speed as we head into the warmer months. A short synopsis of each project along with a timeline for completion is listed below.

- **Gates**

- **North Gate:** Phase 2 begins on, or about, Monday, April 25, and will last until July 2011. When this phase begins, North Gate will become the 24/7 gate due to construction activity at South Gate. There will be three lanes of traffic and pedestrian access will be available.
- **South Gate:** Phase 1 begins on, or about, Monday, April 25, and will last until July 2011. During construction there will only be one lane of travel for vehicles. Pedestrian access will remain available during construction at this gate.
 - **Hours of Operation:**
 - 0500-0900 Inbound traffic only
 - 0901-0459 Outbound traffic only
- **University Gate:** Phase 1 begins on, or about, Wednesday, April 20. A new vehicle inspection station will be constructed at this gate. During construction, there will be one way travel restrictions along portions of University Road, South Palmer Road and Perimeter Road.

- **Garages**

- **Building 54 (Staff Garage):** Beginning on, or about, Thursday, April 21, the next phase of construction will start on this garage. This phase will require the closure of the entrance to the garage. The entrance will shift to the current exit. Appropriate signage and signals will be in place to assist motorists.
- **America Garage:** Beginning on, or about, Monday, May, 2, a project to expand a generator room in the garage will take place. This project is expected to last until August of 2011. The West side entrance and a small number of handicap parking spaces will be impacted. Further details will be provided via Postmaster.

- **Roadways & Sidewalks**

- **North Palmer Road:** Beginning on, or about, Wednesday, April 20, South Palmer Road will be closed between RB Brown Drive and Stokes Road. Vehicular detours will be available. This portion of roadway will be closed Monday through Friday, 0600-1700 for pre-cast installation on the new 1200 space Multi Use Parking Structure. This closure has a projected end date on, or about, May 15. Pedestrians will be able to use the North crosswalk on North Palmer Road.
- **OR Duct Bank:** Beginning on, or about, Friday, April 29, there will be intermittent sidewalk and road closures along Brown drive. Work will be completed during off peak hours to limit impact to patients, visitors and staff.
- **Palmer/Brown Intersection:** Starting on, or about, Monday, April 25, construction will begin on the intersection of North Palmer Road and Brown Drive. Throughout the construction, and beyond completion, a four way vehicle stop will be created at the North Palmer Rd/Brown Dr intersection. During the first phase of construction a large portion of the area directly north of the Staff Garage (Bldg 54) will be behind fencing. Portions of the sidewalk on the east side of Brown Drive & the south side of North Palmer will be closed. Appropriate pedestrian detours will be in place to include an ADA ramp adjacent to the Staff Garage (Bldg 54).

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There are a significant amount of construction projects currently ongoing at NSA Bethesda. The pace of construction will pick up in the near future that will impact the interior and exterior of the hospital. Please be extra mindful of several safety “hot spots” across NSA Bethesda.

- **Garages**
 - The speed limit within parking garages is 5 MPH. When driving through parking garages, please be mindful of pedestrians.
 - There are ongoing renovations in Building 54 (Staff Garage). Follow the traffic signals and signage within the garage to maintain a safe environment.
 - When walking through the America Garage, walk on the outer edge of the drive aisles. Motorists may not be able to see pedestrians as they take the turns. Additionally, walk through the entrance and exits designated for pedestrians instead of the entrances designated for vehicles.
 - Motorists are not permitted to back in to spaces in any parking area at NSA Bethesda.
- **Crosswalks**
 - The safest way to cross a street is by using a crosswalk. Crosswalks are designed to be sufficiently illuminated and to provide a clear line of sight of pedestrians to motorists to provide enough time to stop.
 - Before crossing be sure to look both ways, and if possible make eye contact with motorists to gain their attention.
 - If you do not cross the street in a crosswalk, you may be less visible and nearby activities may distract drivers.
- **Flagger Activity**
 - Flaggers are in place to provide traffic control at construction entrances. They are in place to stop traffic that is entering/exiting the site or when one lane is temporarily blocked due to construction activity.
 - If the roadway appears to be safe but the flagger has indicated that traffic needs to stop, heed the direction of the flagger to maintain a safe environment.
- **Pedestrian Detours**
 - Detours are put in place to keep pedestrians safe as they walk near a construction site.
 - Follow any detour signage and stay on marked sidewalks.
- **Vehicle Detours**
 - Current and future construction projects may require the need to reroute traffic around the construction zone. This may include road and or gate closures for predetermined periods of time.
 - When driving through these areas keep alert and slow down at entrances and exits of the detour.
- **Bicycle Safety**
 - All bicyclists are required to follow the same traffic rules and regulations as motorists.
 - Helmets must be worn while riding at NSA Bethesda.

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Questions?

Q1: Where will you be able to park your bicycle if the bicycle racks are unavailable in Building 54?

A1: Options within close proximity include Building 55 - bicycle racks are located at the entrance across from the guard station - or America Garage (Building 63) - bicycle racks are located adjacent to the Brown Drive entrance in the small parking area across from the guard station.

Q2: When South Palmer Road is closed to inbound traffic, will you be able to enter the base using the NEX gate?

A2: Yes, NEX Gate hours of inbound operations are Mon-Fri, 0500-1900. An alternate option will be the North Gate, Mon-Sun, 24/7.

Q3: Will pedestrians be able to walk along the portion of South Palmer Rd that is closed for MUPS pre-cast installation?

A3: Yes, pedestrians will have access to the north side of South Palmer Rd.

Q4: Due to the construction of Building 54 (Staff Garage), enclosed motorcycle parking has been displaced. Will you provide any temporary motorcycle parking?

A4: Yes, temporary motorcycle parking will be provided within the America Garage (Building 63) adjacent to the Brown Drive entrance in the small parking area across from the guard station.

Q6: I have noticed that truck drivers are directing traffic from their trucks. Is this allowed?

A6: No, this is not an acceptable traffic control method. We will address with contractors.

Q7: I have noticed that cars are parking in the center of South Palmer Road which is causing a safety issue. Are cars allowed to park in this location?

Q7: Appropriate measures will be taken to limit safety risks for both pedestrians and motorists within this area.