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PRESS RELEASE

BAY BRIDGE EASTBOUND DETOUR IN OAKLAND TO BEGIN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

New Interactive 3D Technology Empowers Users to Explore the Future

Oakland, May 17, 2011 – Motorists driving on the lower deck of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge will experience a slightly different approach into Oakland after this Memorial Day weekend. While speed limits will remain the same, eastbound drivers should be prepared for the small detour as they emerge from under the upper deck.

Construction for this detour will not require a full bridge closure. While the bridge will remain open for the holiday weekend, select eastbound lanes will be closed from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29. Eastbound traffic will still have access during these limited lane closures and westbound traffic will not be impacted.

By implementing this detour, along with a westbound detour in early 2012, the entire bridge will open to the public earlier than previously scheduled. The detours will allow construction crews to work between the existing and new bridges to complete the new eastbound lanes, which is not possible without the traffic realignment. The current westbound lanes are in the path of the new bridge's eastbound lanes. Without the detours, eastbound traffic would have stayed on the original bridge for about six months after westbound traffic traveled on the new bridge.

Motorists have numerous innovative resources at their fingertips to learn more about the detour and the new Bay Bridge. The project website – BayBridgeInfo.org – has undergone an overhaul, and visitors will find a redesigned site that visually echoes the architecture of the new East Span's signature element, the Self-Anchored Suspension Span. The media-rich site offers more photos and videos, and also incorporates the Webby-Award winning BayBridge360 and Google Earth, which features the new Bay Bridge as the first construction project on Google Earth.

iPad, iPhone (4 and 3GS) and iPod Touch (third and fourth generation, not including 8GB) users can experience the future of the Bay Bridge today in stunning 3D with the Bay Bridge Explorer, a new mobile application. The app drops users into the driver's seat and lets them cruise on the new East Span while construction is still underway. They will see how their drive across the Bay Bridge will change before the bridge opens in late 2013. In the first edition, users can drive on the eastbound detour before they drive it in their cars. To download the app, visit the App Store and search for "Bay Bridge Explorer."

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The public can also visit the Autodesk Transportation Simulator, which allows user to virtually test drive the Bay Bridge, including the detour routes, at the Autodesk Gallery in San Francisco. The Transportation Simulator is available to the public during the Autodesk Gallery's free public hours each Wednesday from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information about the eastbound detour, visit BayBridgeInfo.org/otd_detour.

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Discover more information about the Oakland Touchdown Detour by scanning the QR tag. The tag can be scanned using a smartphone or other personal media device using QR reader apps that are available online.

