

The Patriot Ledger

Be ready for big traffic this Thanksgiving

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The Patriot Ledger

Posted Nov 19, 2018 at 1:43 PM

Updated Nov 19, 2018 at 5:04 PM

AAA expects this to be the busiest few days on the roads and in the sky in 13 years.

“We are projecting that more than 54 million Americans will travel more than 50 miles away from home this Thanksgiving,” Mary Maguire, director of public and legislative affairs for AAA Northeast, said. “Both the national and the Massachusetts numbers are the largest numbers seen since 2005.”

An estimated 2.5 million more people will travel this year, an increase of 4.8 percent over last year, AAA reports. More than a million Massachusetts residents will be among them, most traveling by car.

Maguire said the toughest travel times will be 4 and 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon.

“We could see up to three and a half times the normal amount of traffic and delays,” she said.

Maguire said leaving early in the morning is the best bet.

On top of traffic volume, snow is expected north of Route 128.

“Time your travel very carefully,” she said. “Really keep an eye on the traffic conditions and the weather and plan accordingly.”

Thursday morning may be the best time to leave, with far fewer drivers on the road at this time, Maguire said.

The HOV lane on I-93 between Boston and Quincy will be open during normal

morning hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, with extended hours of 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday. It will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

All travel lanes on the Sagamore and Bourne bridges will be open during the Thanksgiving travel period.

All scheduled roadway construction will be shut down beginning at noon on Wednesday, MassDOT said.

The MBTA is also modifying its service schedule for the holiday. Commuter rail, subway and bus service will follow a Sunday schedule on Thursday. The Hingham and Hull ferry will run on a modified weekday schedule on Wednesday, with no service on Thursday.



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