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M-185 Road Construction Update

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — M-185 on Mackinac Island will be closed from the British Landing Area to the water treatment plant, just past Mission Point Resort heading north, at least through Friday, September 24. As a result, the stairway to Arch Rock will be closed, and the only access to Arch Rock will be from the interior of the island.

Visitors who ride east will have to turn around upon reaching the water treatment plant. Those that ride to British Landing can either turn around and head back toward town, or head up British Landing Road. It is recommended that riders head up into the interior of the island first and ride down to British Landing.

Construction to finish paving and securing M-185 after high water and erosion damaged several portions of the roadway is currently underway. The closed section of road will have several large construction vehicles moving throughout it. Barricades will be placed at either end. Going around a barricade is exceedingly dangerous, and people found going around the barricade are subject to a ticket and fine.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing about \$6 million to rebuild M-185, addressing high-water and wave erosion damage on the shoreline. Roughly 4 miles of the highway around the island (the only state highway in Michigan that does not regularly allow automobile traffic) sustained ongoing damage that escalated in fall 2019 and winter 2020.

The project will repair armor stone along M-185, primarily along the eastern and northern shore of the island from north of Dennis O. Cawthorne Shoreline Trail to British Landing. Work also includes pavement repairs to previously washed out and damaged pavement.

Mackinac State Historic Parks and MDOT will continue to send out releases as more information becomes available on M-185 closures throughout the summer.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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