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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JULY 03, 2015

Are the worst of the holiday getaway blues over?

That's what data collected by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation suggests, as travel times on Route 3 from the Braintree split to the Sagamore Bridge appeared to peak Friday morning, then drop steadily after noon.

The trend was the same along the Mass Pike from the Allston-Brighton tolls to Interstate 84, according to the MassDOT data.

Of course, there's always the possibility of last-minute travelers taking to the roads this evening as they apparently did on Thursday.

It's not over till it's over — when everybody who wants to be somewhere wakes up there Saturday morning.

A look at Friday's pre-Fourth of July traffic

Travel times recorded so far along Rte. 3 from the Braintree Split to the Sagamore Bridge, and on the Mass Pike from the Allston-Brighton tolls to I-84.

**DATA: Massachusetts Department of Transportation**

MATT ROCHELEAU/GLOBE STAFF

Data provided by MassDOT also showed that traffic Thursday was worse than on the same day before the holiday weekend a year ago, according to the data.

Created with Highcharts 4.0.3

ROUTE 3 MASS PIKE

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Last year, travel times plateaued at around 1 p.m., when it took more than an hour and 10 minutes — about twice as long as when there’s no traffic — to travel the Braintree split-Sagamore stretch. Commutes of more than an hour continued until around 6 p.m., before trailing off.

On Thursday, along that same stretch, it took drivers nearly an hour and a half when traffic was at its worst to crawl along that same stretch of road. The drive was slow going for roughly the same stretch of time, from 1 to 6 p.m.

After letting up somewhat briefly Thursday evening, travel times surged again, as drivers hoping to beat the traffic with a late-but-quick drive down to the Cape instead found themselves stuck behind the wheel for between an hour and an hour and a half, from 9 p.m. until shortly past midnight.

The patterns were similar on the Allston-Brighton-Interstate 84 stretch.

Last year, traffic was at its worst between 3 and 5 p.m. on the day before the long weekend. Drive times took as long as an hour and 10 minutes, for a trip that, without traffic, takes about 45 minutes.

On Thursday, the same trip took as long as an hour and a half.

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