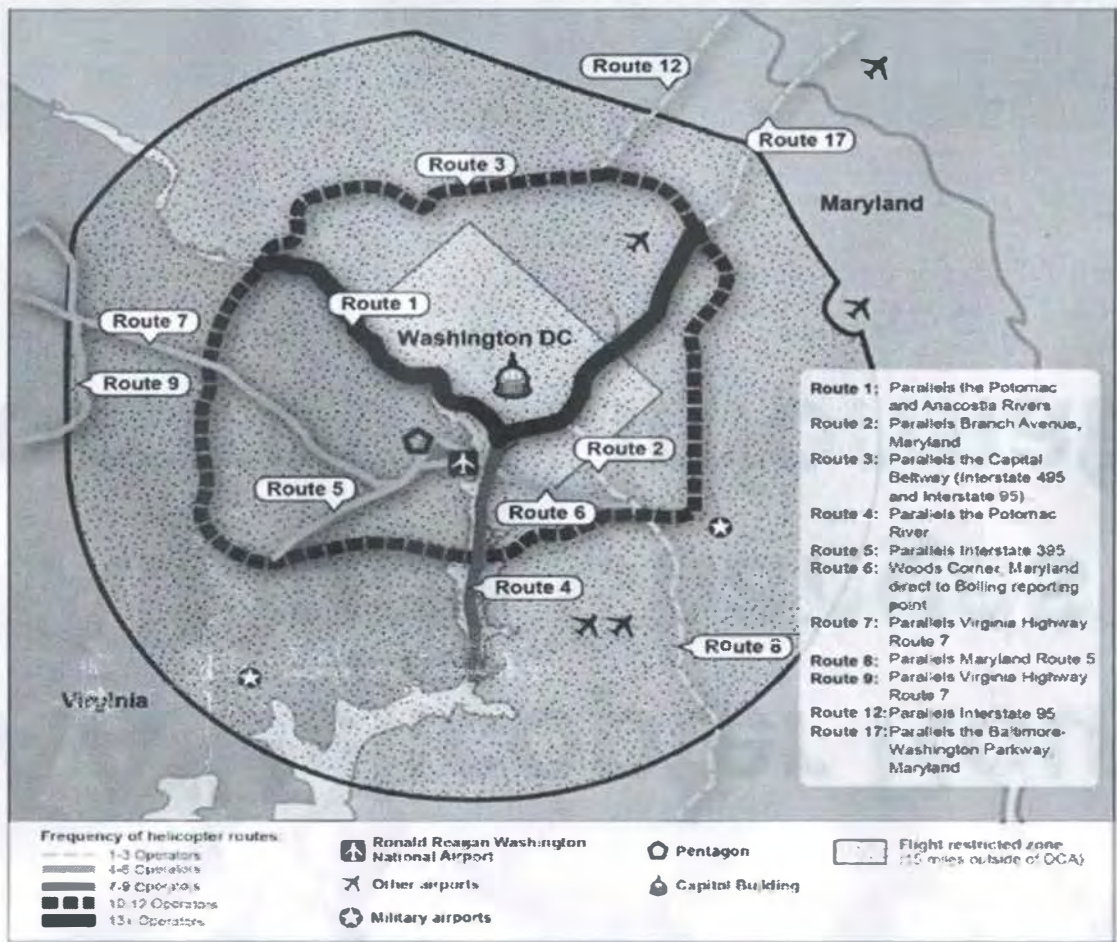


# **FAA Helicopter Route Altitude Changes Background Information**



Federal Aviation  
Administration



# Content

- **Graphic Route Depiction**
- **Description of route altitude changes**
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## Route Altitude Changes

- **Route 2** - which runs parallel to Branch Avenue in Maryland will be raised by 300 feet from 1,000 to 1,400 feet.
- **Route 3** – which runs parallel to the Capitol Runway (Interstate 495 and 95) will be raised between 100-400 feet from 1,000-1,300 feet (depending on the location on the route) to 1,400 feet, with the exception of the vicinity of Wilson Bridge.
- **Route 5** - which runs directly over Interstate 395 will be raised by 100 feet to an altitude of 1,400 feet, except north of Glebe which will remain as charted today due to the proximity of the airport.



## Route Altitude Changes cont.

- **Route 6** - which runs from Woods Corner to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, will be raised by 400 feet to an altitude of 1,400'
- **Route 7** which run along the Virginia Highway Route 7 to Dulles East Control Point will be raised by 100 feet to and altitude of 1,400'



## Zone Lateral Boundary Changes

*A Zone covers a geographic area that dictates the lateral boundary and altitude for helicopters that are operating the specified zone. Routes are a specified lateral and vertical boundary that must be adhered to.*

**Zone 1** – lateral boundary will be reduced in size to south of the National Mall and extend to RFK Stadium. The remainder of Zone 1 helicopters can operate at 700 feet as charted today.

**Zone 2** – will encompass the remaining portion of the old Zone 1. Zone 2 will be the majority of Washington, D.C. and portions of Maryland within the Beltway.



## Zone Lateral Boundaries cont.

The lateral boundary of Zone 2 will now exclude the area in the vicinity of Georgetown due to the proximity to fixed wing aircraft. Zone 2 boundary is currently the area north of the National Mall and Naval Observatory extending out to the beltway. The altitude for this area will go up to 1400 feet.

**Zone 5** - Amended the lateral boundary of Zone 5 to create a new boundary line west of Roslyn.

- Providing a higher altitude and safe distance to fixed wing aircraft. Altitude will increase from 1300 to 1400 feet.
- Reducing noise in the Rosslyn/Northern Virginia area.



## Zone Altitude Changes

FAA Amended route altitudes in the following Zones.

*A Zone covers a geographic area that dictates the lateral boundary and altitude for helicopters that are operating the specified zone.*

- Zone 2 which covers the majority of Washington D.C. and parts of Maryland inside the beltway will increase in altitude between 100 and 700 feet. (current altitude 700'-1300')





## Zone Altitudes cont.

- Zone 3 which covers South East Washington D.C. across the Anacostia River and parts of Prince Georges County, MD area will be raised 200 feet to an altitude of 1,200' (current altitude 1,000')
- Zone 5 which covers the area of Arlington County and Fairfax County will be raised 100 feet to an altitude of 1,400' (current altitude 1,300')
- Note: All amended zone changes apply with exception for MEDEVAC, law enforcement, presidential missions, homeland security conducting mission essential operations.



## Transition Point

FAA charted a transition point at the Chain Bridge which will allow helicopters to transition Zone 5 and new Zone 2 at a higher altitude and less densely populated area than the Memorial Bridge Transition. This allows helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to operate with greater altitude and separation.

