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Drivers should steer clear of Manhattan

By NEIL GRAVES

Motoring in Manhattan has become a true challenge in the past two months, and this weekend will probably not be for the faint of heart.

With President Bush in town tomorrow and Sunday, in addition to the annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, traffic is expected to be snarled at various points and times from the Battery to East 63rd Street.

President Bush and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat are both slated to speak before the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow. And on Sunday the president is scheduled to pay a visit to ground zero at the former World Trade Center site.

An area between 34th and 63rd streets and between the FDR Drive and Fifth Avenue can become frozen zones at any time when the president is traveling, sources said.

The FDR Drive will remain open unless President Bush is traveling down the East Side to either the East River heliport at 34th Street or to ground zero.

A Police Department spokesman said plans were not finalized for either day of the president's visit.

On Sunday, the annual Veterans Day Parade steps up Fifth Avenue from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. in what is expected to be one of the grander affairs in recent years.

The marchers will form up between 26th and 29th streets, and between Park and Fifth avenues. They will then proceed to 27th Street and Fifth Avenue before heading north up Fifth to 40th Street.

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