The Maryland Department of Transportation’s State Highway Administration (SHA) has completed the planning and design phase for improvements that will add an additional eastbound lane to the US 50 bridge over the Severn River in Anne Arundel County. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2017 and be completed in the spring of 2018.

Why is the Project Needed?
This section of US 50 has long been a concern for the traveling public and local governments. Anne Arundel and Queen Anne’s counties have identified improvements along US 50 in the vicinity of the bridge as a top priority. The City of Annapolis has expressed concerns with neighborhood cut-through traffic as a result of congestion along US 50. SHA has received numerous complaints about eastbound traffic congestion, which can extend several miles during evenings, and even longer during summer peak travel periods.

How will the Project Help?
The goal of the project is to improve congestion relief for 10 to 15 years relatively quickly and at an affordable cost. The traffic volume is projected to increase by approximately 33 percent by 2040. The additional eastbound lane will allow P.M. peak hour traffic to free flow eastbound by maximizing the bridge’s capacity to handle the growing traffic volume.

Project Background
In August 2011, SHA completed the US 50 at Severn River Bridge Feasibility Study. SHA evaluated transportation improvements to 1.6 miles of US 50 (John Hanson Highway) from MD 70 (Rowe Boulevard) to MD 450/MD 2, with an emphasis on alleviating the traffic congestion and improving traffic operations across the US 50 bridge over the Severn River. That study and further analysis found that congestion at the Severn River Bridge is caused not only by the volume of traffic, but by a combination of factors, including bridge grade, truck volume, narrow shoulders, the merge from Rowe Boulevard, queue jumpers, drivers slowing to view the scenic Severn River, and other human factors. The feasibility study included the development of preliminary concepts specifically designed to reduce traffic congestion during morning and evening peak travel periods and peak summer travel periods. From the feasibility study and public comments, SHA chose an alternative (Concept 1B – Eastbound Additional Lane) to develop detailed engineering and analysis. In the fall of 2014, SHA held a Public Workshop to present the alternative. In June 2015, Governor Larry Hogan announced $1.97 billion investment in highway and bridge projects across Maryland, including $25 million in construction funds for the US 50 Severn River Bridge.

Existing Conditions
Within the study area, US 50 has three through lanes both eastbound and westbound. The existing travel lanes are 12 feet wide, the median width varies from 5 to 28 feet, and the outside shoulder width varies from 3 to 24 feet.

On the Severn River Bridge, US 50 has three travel lanes both eastbound and westbound. The lanes are 12 feet wide, the median is 5 feet wide including the barrier, and the outside shoulders are approximately 3 feet wide. The bridge is approximately 83 feet wide. The original structure was built in 1953 and was rehabilitated/widened in 1969 and 1988.

Traffic congestion exists on US 50, particularly in the eastbound direction approaching the Severn River Bridge during the P.M. peak hours, resulting in several miles of congestion daily.
SHA will relocate the existing median barrier and restripe the travel lanes to provide four 11-foot travel lanes in the eastbound direction and three 11-foot travel lanes in the westbound direction between Ridgely Avenue overpass and the MD 450/MD 2 interchange. Due to the constrained nature of the roadway, SHA will monitor traffic operations of the new traffic pattern. Further roadway improvements may be considered in the next phase of the project. SHA will work closely with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to ensure a safe and smooth transition for WMATA customers.

Build Alternative

**Proposed US 50 Seven River Bridge - Typical Section**

Eastbound

- Down
- Down
- Down
- Down

Westbound

- Up
- Up
- Up
- Up

Next Steps

**Requests for Assistance**

- Complete Construction: Fall 2017
- Begin Construction: Spring 2017
- Advertisement for Construction: Summer 2017
- Final Closeout: Winter 2017

For More Information

- To request additional project information, please visit SHA’s website at www.roads.maryland.gov and click on Projects, SHA Projects, and type US 50 in the search box. Select US 50, John Hanson Highway IHB - MD 70 TO MD 2 (NORTH) from the drop-down menu, then click on Additional Project Information. You may also use the Maryland State Highway Administration’s 202-772-7018 or 1-877-887-ROADS (76237) toll-free number.

- Persons requiring translation assistance with this newsletter should send an email to shatitlevi@sha.state.md.us. Please indicate the desired language in the subject line.