



US 50 CROSSING STUDY Ocean City



A NEW STUDY OF THE OLD BRIDGE

This is the first newsletter for the US 50 Crossing Study, sponsored by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The purpose of the newsletter is to introduce you to the project, provide information on the project's purpose, and to invite your participation as we begin looking into potential changes to the US 50 crossing into Ocean City.

Kick-Off Meetings - June 8 & 9

WHAT: Learn first-hand about the study at an Informational Open House that will be held in Ocean City on June 8-9, 2005. The sessions will not only outline key issues, but solicit your ideas on what direction the project should take. To make it easier to participate, we have planned three identical sessions over two days. There will be no formal presentation, but state representatives will be available to receive comments and provide information. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a session!

WHEN:

JUNE 8

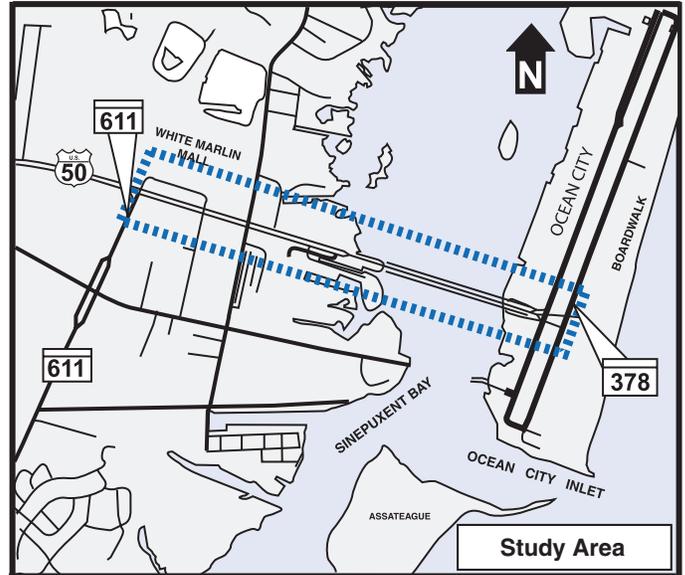
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

JUNE 9

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WHERE:

Roland E. Powell
Convention Center
Room 217
4001 Coastal Highway
(40th Street)
Ocean City, MD 21842



Also identified is the need to establish a more attractive and aesthetic gateway representative of a major coastal resort.

The Town of Ocean City would like to see a beautification effort on any US 50 bridge that would include a separate fishing pier, so that pedestrians can use the sidewalks without conflicting with people fishing from the bridge.

Local officials also point out that resolving the future of the US 50 crossing will assist development efforts. New building projects are expected around each end of the existing bridge in the near future. If the study selects an improvement option, private and public plans potentially could be adjusted to better accommodate a new or rehabilitated bridge with minimal disruptions.

About the Study...

The purpose of this study is to develop and analyze future options for the US 50 bridge over the Sinepuxent Bay. This study will consider a wide range of options, including no-build, rehabilitating the existing bridge, building a new bridge, or potentially developing a non-bridge option. The project limits extend from MD 611 to MD 378 (Baltimore Avenue).

The study will address a number of needs, which include improving the structural, operational and safety problems associated with the existing bridge. The study will also address how to better accommodate the variety of users of the crossing, including car and truck drivers, pedestrians, fishermen, boaters, cyclists, and public transit passengers.

About the Bridge...

The US 50 bridge over Sinepuxent Bay was built in 1942. The existing bridge, popularly known as the Harry W. Kelley Memorial Bridge, has an operating life expectancy of 15-40 years depending on the amount of repair work done in the future.

The bridge has been placed on the state's Historic Bridge Inventory and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Current Activities

SHA began a formal planning study in November 2004. Under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, this study will document the alternative selection process. The project planning process includes engineering studies, an evaluation of environmental impacts, costs, and public-agency coordination associated with the alternatives that are studied.

SHA is currently defining the goal and direction of the study in conjunction with FHWA, state and federal regulatory agencies, and local officials.

Schedule

Develop Preliminary Alternatives	<i>Fall 2005</i>
Alternates Public Workshop	<i>Spring 2006</i>
Location/ Design Public Hearing	<i>Winter 2007/2008</i>
Location/ Design Approval	<i>Spring 2009</i>

Contacts

For more information or to be included on the project mailing list, please contact:

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In addition, an overview of this and other SHA projects, including upcoming activities, can be found on the SHA's website at www.marylandroads.com. Simply click on "Projects and Events" to locate the project planning fact sheets.

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lieutenant Governor
Robert L. Flanagan, Secretary
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