

# REHABILITATION OF BRIDGES ON WEST NURSERY ROAD OVER NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND MD 295 USING SPMTs

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### What work is planned for this bridge?

The project consists of replacing the beams and concrete decks of the bridges on West Nursery Road over northbound and southbound MD 295. The proposed bridges will be wider than the existing to provide 5'-0" shoulders on each side of the roadway where none currently exists.

### Why is this work necessary?

The existing superstructures, originally constructed in 1948 and modified in 1974, are structurally safe but showing signs of deterioration, particularly the concrete bridge deck, which has been extensively patched in recent years. This project is part of SHA's bridge preservation and replacement program aimed at providing reliable facilities in a timely manner.

### How will traffic be impacted by construction activities?

To minimize impacts to vehicular traffic, the new beams and concrete decks for each bridge will be constructed in the median between northbound and southbound MD 295 to the north of the overpasses. Once complete, SPMTs (bridge movers) will remove the existing beams and concrete deck from each bridge and carry them into the median of MD 295 where they will be demolished. The bridge movers will then carry the newly constructed beams and concrete deck for each bridge and move them into place on the existing bridge supports. Removing the beams and concrete decks of the existing bridges and moving the new ones into place will require closure of West Nursery Road over two consecutive weekends (weather permitting) from 10 PM Friday night until 8 AM Sunday morning. During portions of this time, traffic on MD 295 will also be detoured. The detour route will direct traffic up the exit ramps to West Nursery Road and back down the entrance ramps for MD 295 from West Nursery Road. When the detour is not in effect, two lanes of traffic will be maintained on northbound and southbound MD 295, while four lanes of traffic on West Nursery Road will be maintained with reduced lane widths.

### Have any other alternatives been considered?

Several options to maintain traffic while the superstructure is being reconstructed have been considered including, but not limited to, a temporary bridge on an adjacent alignment and phased construction. Concerns over traffic delays, multiple extended closures of MD 295 and West Nursery Road and construction duration make these alternative options less desirable than the use of bridge movers. Utilizing bridge movers to remove the existing and install the new bridge superstructures (beams and decks) requires fewer closures and is more cost effective. In addition, the project can be completed in one construction season.

### When will the work be completed?

SHA will make every effort to complete this project as quickly as possible while minimizing impacts to local residents, business and motorists. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2012 and be completed by Fall 2012, weather permitting.