

REPLACEMENT OF SUPERSTRUCTURE AND REHABILITATION OF CONCRETE ARCH BRIDGE NO. 03109 ON US 40 OVER PATAPSCO RIVER

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The State Highway Administration (SHA) will rehabilitate the bridge on US 40 (Baltimore National Pike) over the Patapsco River at the Baltimore/Howard County line. There will be impacts to traffic during construction, including the reduction of westbound US 40 to one lane at times. The main objective of this project is to replace the bridge riding surface and its supports. The entire bridge from the concrete arches upward will be replaced, and the remaining portions of the bridge will be rehabilitated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is the work necessary?

The Patapsco River Bridge, originally constructed in 1936, is structurally safe but showing signs of deterioration. The work will extend the life of this historic bridge by an additional 30 to 50 years, and is part of SHA's bridge preservation and replacement program.

How will traffic be impacted by construction activities?

The existing bridge carries four lanes of traffic. During construction, traffic will be maintained by building two 2 lane temporary bridges, one on each side of the existing bridge. This minimizes Patapsco State Park impacts and disruptions to traffic. There will be a period of approximately six months at the beginning and another six months at the end of the project where one lane of westbound traffic will be closed in order to build, and later remove, the temporary retaining walls that support the temporary roadways.

Were any other alternatives considered?

Several alternates to maintain traffic during construction were considered. A detour was rejected because of significant traffic delays, impacts to business, and the length of the detour. Also considered was an option to construct a 4-lane temporary bridge either upstream or downstream of the existing bridge, but this was dismissed due to design constraints when building on steep slopes, and increased impacts to Patapsco State Park. Maintaining two lanes of traffic on half of the existing bridge while the other half was being rehabilitated was also considered, but an analysis of the bridge showed that this would be unsafe due to the unusual design of the bridge.

What is the project schedule?

Construction on the project is expected to begin in mid-October 2010 and should be complete in Summer 2013, weather permitting. SHA will make every effort to complete this project as quickly as possible while minimizing impacts to local residents and motorists.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mr. Don Schaefer
Assistant District Engineer - Construction
Baltimore & Harford Counties
Phone: 410-229-2420
Toll Free: 1-866-998-0367
E-mail: SHADISTRICT4@sha.state.md.us

SHA appreciates the patience and cooperation of the community and apologizes for any inconvenience. SHA reminds motorists to "think orange" when driving through work zones, by staying alert and slowing down. Always buckle-up, and please drive safely.

