

# Bridge Widening and Superstructure Replacement on MD 140 (Westminster Pike) over N. Br. of Patapsco River (Liberty Reservoir)

## **Why is the work necessary?**

Originally constructed in 1944, the bridge deck is nearing the end of its useful service life. Replacing the bridge deck and supporting steel beams will save money on future maintenance, and support safety and mobility as part of SHA's bridge system preservation program.

## **How will traffic be impacted?**

Bridge construction will take place in three major phases. During the first two phases, the number of through lanes on MD 140 will be reduced from four lanes to three lanes. One of the three lanes will be a reversible lane carrying traffic towards Reisterstown for the morning rush hour and towards Westminster for the evening rush hour. Traffic in this lane will be controlled by overhead traffic signals. During the final phase, all four lanes will be restored, and the reversible lane condition discontinued. To increase traffic safety during construction, the speed limit will be reduced in the work zone, police enforcement increased, lane widths reduced, and bicycles detoured around the project location.

## **Have any other alternatives been considered?**

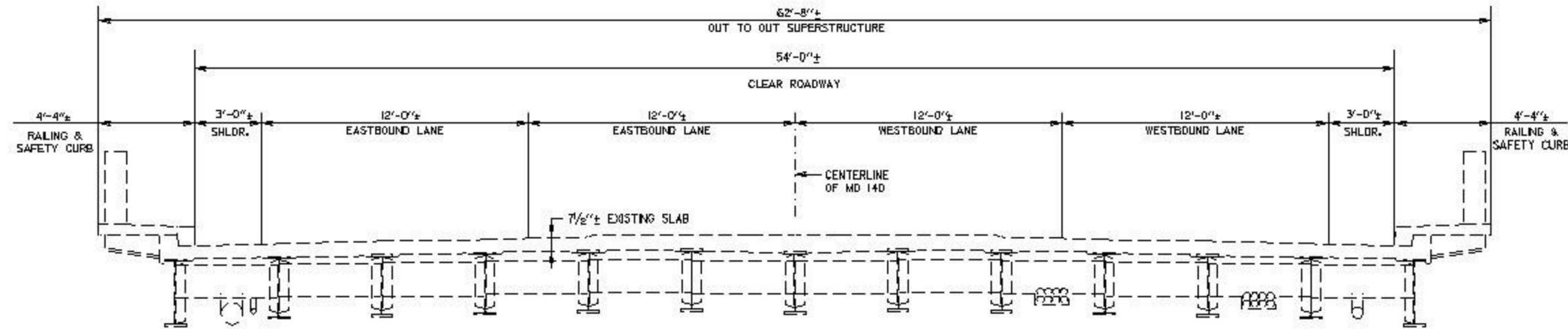
Several alternatives to maintain traffic during construction were considered. Maintaining all four through lanes on MD 140 was not feasible because the bridge and approach roadways are too narrow to maintain all existing lanes while performing the required work. Consideration was also given to closing the roadway and detouring all traffic to adjacent highways, but while this has the advantage of allowing the project to be done in the shortest time, it is not ideal due to the high volumes of traffic on MD 140 and the adjacent roadway network.

## **What is the project schedule?**

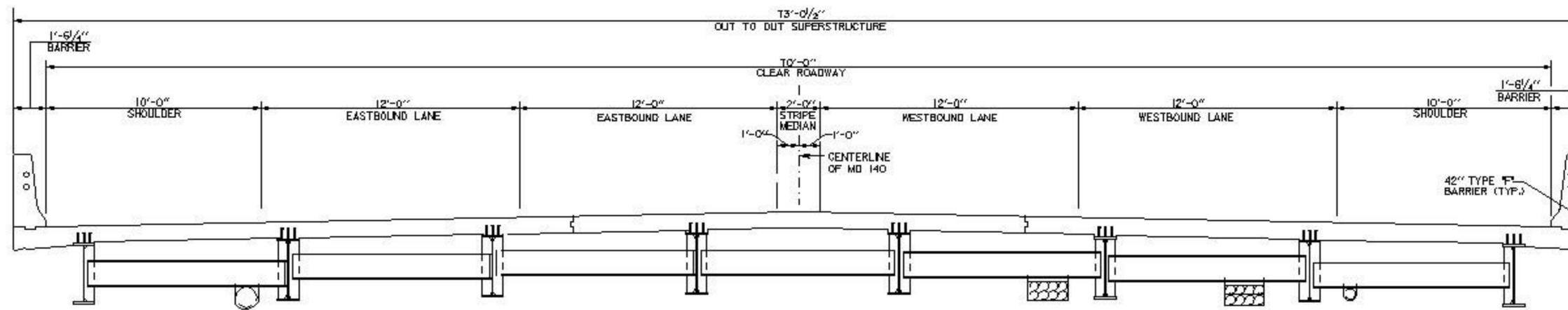
SHA will make every effort to complete this project as quickly as possible while minimizing impacts to local residents and motorists.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late fall 2012 and anticipated to be complete in up to two years, weather permitting.

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**Bridge Typical Section - Existing**



**Bridge Typical Section - Proposed**

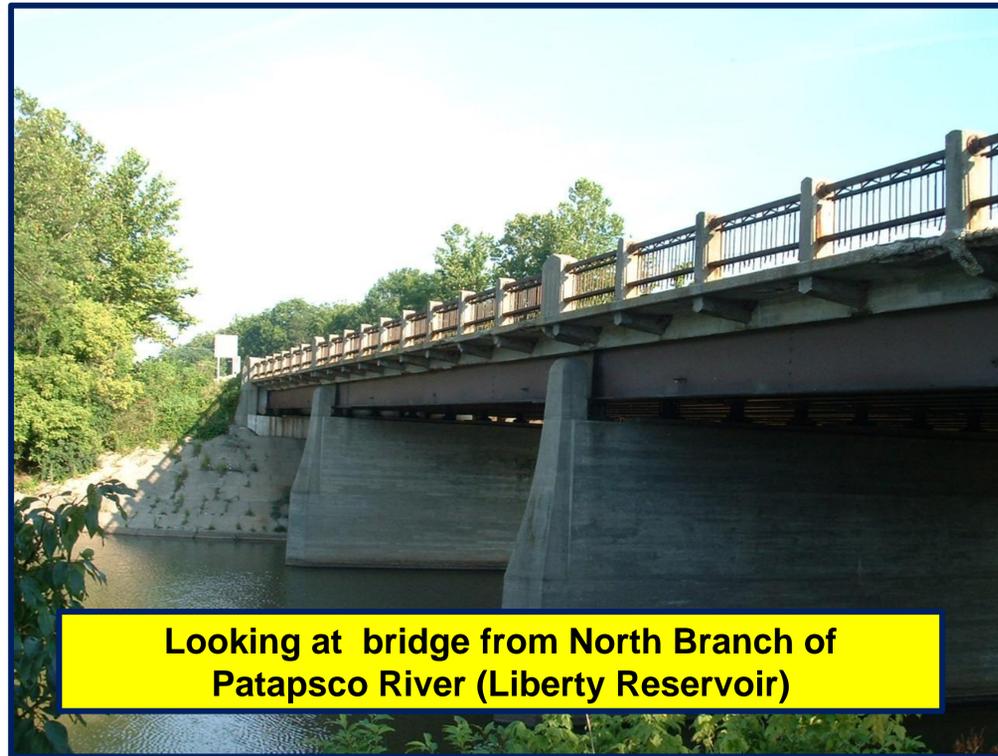
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Looking from MD 140 Eastbound towards Baltimore County



Looking from MD 140 Westbound towards Carroll County



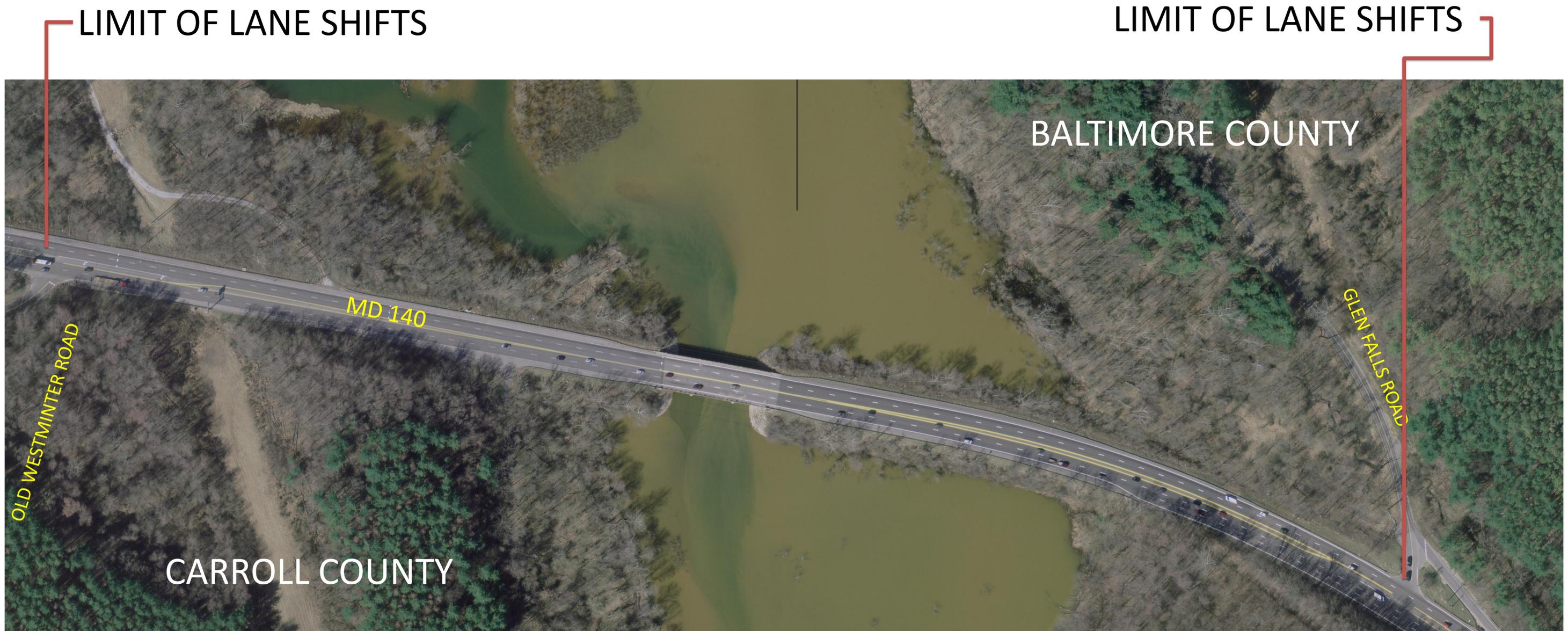
Looking at bridge from North Branch of Patapsco River (Liberty Reservoir)



Example of Overhead Signals and Reversible Lanes

Photos

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SHOULDERS ON BRIDGE TO BE WIDENED TO MATCH THE APPROACH ROADWAYS