



PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

MAJOR BRIDGE WORK



MD 331 (Dover Road)/Choptank River

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BRIDGE PLANNED

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) will construct a new high-level, fixed-span bridge just south of the MD 331 (Dover Road) Bridge over the Choptank River in Talbot and Caroline counties, beginning in summer 2014. The proposed 2,020-foot-long bridge will have two 12-foot-wide lanes with 8-foot-wide shoulders and a 50-foot vertical underclearance (distance above the water). The decision to build a new bridge on a parallel alignment was determined through a formal planning study completed in 1997.

For additional information, you are invited to attend a Public Meeting on November 12, 2013.

The Informational Meeting will acquaint the public with the project. Display areas will depict the anticipated project work, and SHA representatives will be available to discuss project issues and answer questions about the proposed construction. **No formal presentation will be given. You may arrive at any time during meeting hours and walk through at your own pace.**

MD 331 over the Choptank River Informational Meeting	
WHEN: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. <i>Arrive at any time during meeting hours. There is no formal presentation.</i>	WHERE: Easton High School (cafeteria) 723 Mecklenberg Avenue Easton, MD 21601

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is the work necessary?

The work is necessary to increase vertical clearance over the Choptank River to eliminate the need for a moveable bridge structure, reduce congestion due to frequent bridge openings, and address safety concerns related to the narrow roadway section on the existing bridge. This project is part of SHA's bridge preservation and replacement program.

What will happen to the existing bridge?

As one of only three remaining single-swing-span bridges on Maryland's state system, the existing bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of its historic significance, the bridge will be maintained in its present location but will no longer accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Interpretive signs explaining the bridge's historic significance will be placed at the east side of the bridge, and a new parking area will provide a safe location from which visitors may view the interpretive signs and the surrounding area. The bridge will be left in the open position to allow free movement of marine traffic.

How will traffic be impacted by construction activities?

Both lanes of traffic along MD 331 will be maintained during construction and two-way traffic will be maintained on the existing bridge and roadway until the new parallel roadway and bridge are built. Traffic will then be switched to the new alignment. Motorists will experience minimal impacts when the contractor ties the new roadway into the existing alignment.

When will work be completed?

Advertisement for project bids is scheduled for March 2014. Pending the acquisition of required environmental permits and the relocation of impacted utilities, construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2014. SHA will make every effort to complete this project as quickly as possible, while minimizing impacts on local residents and motorists. Based on the scope of work and experience with similar projects, SHA expects the project to take as long as 3.5 years to complete, weather permitting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mr. Greg Holsey, SHA District Engineer for Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne, and Talbot counties
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Address: 615 Morgnec Road, Chestertown, MD 21620

Mr. Jeff Robert, SHA Design Manager
Phone: 410-545-8327 Toll-Free: 1-888-375-1084 Email: jrobert@sha.state.md.us
Address: 707 N. Calvert Street, Mail Stop C-203, Baltimore, MD 21202

Additional project details and status updates can be found on SHA's website at: www.roads.maryland.gov. Click on **Projects and Studies, Transportation Projects Page, County Search (Talbot or Caroline)**. The MD 331 project is under **Pre-Construction, MD 331, Dover Road**.



REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1. Persons requiring assistance to participate (interpreter for hearing/speech disabilities or assistance with the English language) should contact Mr. Holsey by November 4, 2013.



QR Code for cell phone link to meeting page

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
James T. Smith, Jr., Secretary
Melinda B. Peters, Administrator

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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.

