



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**SHA SHIFTS LANES, EXTENDS *SAFEZONES* SPEED ENFORCEMENT
AREA ON I-70 BRIDGE OVER MD 63 IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**

***Crews Prepare To Begin Demolition Work; Warning Period Underway for Automated Speed
Enforcement on MD 63 Bridge; Citations Begin March 19***

(March 1, 2013) – The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) urges motorists on I-70 in Washington County to slow down and use extra caution in the area of the bridges over MD 63 (Greencastle Pike), west of Hagerstown, as crews prepare to begin demolition of the inner (median) sides of the bridges in the coming weeks. The bridges, like the ones that carry I-70 over Conococheague Creek one mile to the west, are being replaced with new, wider structures.

This week, in preparation for the demolition work, crews shifted travel lanes to the outer edges of the bridges, placed concrete barriers between the travel lanes and demolition area, and deployed *Maryland SafeZones* automated speed enforcement in the work zone with a reduced speed limit of 55 mph.

The *SafeZones* program was already in place for the Conococheague Creek bridge work zone and was extended to include the MD 63 bridges. The warning period began this week and will continue for 21 days. Beginning March 19, citations will be issued in that area. Drivers excessively speeding by 12 or more miles over the 55 mph speed limit (67 mph or more), face a \$40 civil citation.

Maryland *SafeZones* joins SHA, Maryland State Police (MSP) and Maryland Transportation Authority Police (MdTA) in the statewide effort to improve highway safety. Mobile enforcement vehicles rotate among eligible work zones in controlled access highways with posted speed limits of 45 mph or higher. Large signs are in place in advance of the work zones to alert drivers of automated speed enforcement use. Crews also placed a “speed trailer” to display the posted speed limit and drivers’ speeds in advance of the enforcement vehicle.

The \$14 million project to reconstruct and widen the I-70 bridges over MD 63 is part of SHA’s bridge preservation and replacement program. Like the Conococheague Creek bridges, the MD 63 dual bridges will be widened to the inside, with two traffic lanes in each direction with a wide inner shoulder. Both projects will be complete by fall 2014, weather permitting.

(more)

I-70 SafeZones

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The bridges will remain open during construction, with traffic lanes shifted to the outer sides of the bridges while crews construct the new inner portions, then shifted to the inside while crews reconstruct the outer sections. Motorists on both I-70 and MD 63 should expect temporary single-lane closures, which may occur more frequently as construction activity picks up in the coming weeks.

While SHA and its partners work hard to maintain safe traffic mobility in work zones, each driver needs to actively modify his or her driving style to help prevent crashes. Stay alert – look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers. Slow down and don't follow too closely. *Safer Driving. Safer Work Zones. For everyone!*

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