

Federal Assistance — Enabling legislation is being submitted to permit Maryland to receive the full benefits of the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966. The State stands to gain substantial assistance for traffic safety programs if it complies, and if it fails to comply it could be penalized with an annual loss of up to \$6 million in Federal aid for highway construction. In this connection, I will shortly designate a State Highway Coordinator pursuant to the Federal guidelines.

NEWS RELEASE ON LEGISLATION FOR ADDITIONAL
CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGES, A SECOND BALTIMORE
HARBOR TUNNEL, AND SCHEDULING PRIMARY ROADS

February 24, 1967

The Agnew administration will seek legislation at the current session of the Maryland General Assembly to allow the State Roads Commission to build additional crossings of the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore Harbor and to start immediately the preliminary engineering and acquisition of rights-of-way for them.

The bill, to be introduced Friday, will carry authorization for three new toll bridges across the Bay — a northern and a southern crossing and one parallel and adjacent to the present span between Sandy Point and Kent Island.

The same bill will provide for a second crossing of the Baltimore Harbor, and allow the State Roads Commission to assign priority to all four projects as it might determine their need from up-to-date traffic studies and the limits of bonding authority.

Voters rejected at the last election a Tawes administration bill which would have allowed construction of a parallel Chesapeake Bay bridge “and other crossings,” with the principal emphasis on the parallel span.

Governor Agnew, in announcing plans today for the new legislation, said there is no question that Maryland is going to need all of the additional crossings as soon as it can build them on a practicable basis. Meanwhile, he said, land acquisition costs are “skyrocketing.”

“So far there has been a lot of heat and not much light on this subject,” the Governor said. “It is time we stopped denouncing, accusing and obstructing and began an examination of the true facts.