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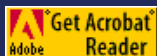
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 29, 2011

Contact: Kelly Melhem or Teri Moss

410-537-1017

DRAWBRIDGE WORK ON I-695 TO RESULT IN MAJOR TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES

*One Lane to Remain Open in Each Direction;
Motorists Advised - Anticipate Major Delays During Peak-Periods*

BALTIMORE, MD – As part of its commitment to preserving and maintaining the State's aging infrastructure, the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announces a \$14.5 million project to replace the decks on the I-695 drawbridges over Curtis Creek, between Quarantine Road (Exit 1) and MD 10 (Exit 2), beginning early January 2012. Funded completely from toll revenue, work will address existing wear and extend the bridge's useful life.

"Keeping our facilities safe and in good repair is our number one priority," said MDTA Executive Secretary Harold M. Bartlett. "We appreciate motorists' patience as we work to

keep the nearly 35-year-old drawbridge operational for years to come.”

The project consists of replacing the draw bridge's steel grid deck and steel floor beams, deck supports and locking mechanism and spot painting of its structural steel. Construction will involve closing one of the dual-span bridges at a time, with two-way traffic – one lane of traffic traveling in each direction separated by a barrier wall – operating on the open bridge span. Overnight closures and detours will take place for crews to set and remove the barrier walls.

Phase one of construction involves an approximately 10-week closure of the INNER LOOP (westbound) I-695 (schedule below) and two-way traffic on the OUTER LOOP (eastbound) I-695. Phase two, an approximately 10-week closure of the OUTER LOOP I-695 with two-way traffic on the INNER LOOP I-695, is anticipated to begin late-March 2012. Note dates and times are approximate and contingent upon weather conditions and work progress.

Tuesday, Jan. 3, through Friday, Jan. 6:

- From 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning nightly, the OUTER LOOP I-695 between MD 10 and Quarantine Road and the ramp from northbound MD 10 to the OUTER LOOP I-695 will be closed.
 - OUTER LOOP detour: southbound MD 10, to Ordnance Road, to Pennington Avenue, to Hawkins Point Road, to Fort Armistead Road, to OUTER LOOP I-695.
 - Northbound MD 10 detour – for traffic south of Ordnance Road: to Ordnance Road and follow route above.
 - Northbound MD 10 detour – for traffic north of Ordnance Road: to INNER LOOP I-695, to southbound MD 648 (Exit 5), to OUTER LOOP I-695, to southbound MD 10, and follow route above.

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 5 a.m.:

- The left lane of the OUTER LOOP I-695 will be closed to OUTER LOOP traffic throughout phase one to allow westbound vehicles to travel in this lane.

Friday, Jan. 6, from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7:

- The right lane of the INNER LOOP I-695 will be closed.

Beginning Saturday, Jan. 7 at 5 a.m. and continuing for approximately 10 weeks:

- The INNER LOOP I-695 will be closed completely.
- Two-way traffic will operate on the OUTER LOOP I-695.

No over-sized loads will be permitted on I-695 between Quarantine Road and MD 10 until the work is complete in May 2012. Speed limits will be reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph during the project. Motorists should anticipate delays, especially during peak-traffic periods, and watch for electronic message signs displaying traffic information. Drivers are urged to use alternate routes:

- Motorists whose destinations are north or south of Baltimore could utilize I-95 or I-895 in lieu of I-695/Key Bridge;
- Motorists heading north from Annapolis could utilize I-97 in lieu of MD 10; and
- Motorists traveling in the east Glen Burnie and Marley Neck areas intending to travel MD 10 to access I-695/Key Bridge may wish to use Marley Neck Boulevard to Fort Smallwood Road.

The INNER LOOP of the I-695 Curtis Creek Drawbridge (one-lane of traffic in each direction) was opened when the Francis Scott Key Bridge opened in 1977. The OUTER LOOP drawbridge span was added in 1979, resulting in two lanes of travel in each direction. This is the first time the drawbridge has undergone this type of work. Between January and April 2010, repairs to the drawbridge-lifting mechanism necessitated similar closures in both directions of the drawbridge.

For information on the MDTA's other facility repair and preservation projects, or to view real-time traffic camera images on MDTA roadways, visit mdta.maryland.gov. For statewide travel conditions, visit MD511.ORG or call 511. The MDTA thanks its customers for their patience and reminds them to Stay Alert So No One Gets Hurt!!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2011

Contact: MDOT
Jack Cahalan
Erin Henson
410-865-1025

MMTA
Louis Campion - President
410-644-4600

PRESS RELEASE

**TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY SWAIM-STALEY JOINS TRUCKING INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO ANNOUNCE
EMERGENCY TRUCK PARKING DURING WINTER STORMS**

***New "Mobile App" Displays Truck Parking
For Truckers To Ride Out The Storm***

HANOVER, MD (December 22, 2011) – As part of the O'Malley Administration's ongoing effort to maintain a safe and efficient transportation network, Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley today joined Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) and I-95 Corridor Coalition to announce a new pilot program for emergency truck parking in select park and ride lots during heavy snow events as a safe haven for truckers to ride out the storm. MDOT, MMTA and the Coalition today released a list of park and ride lots that can accommodate large trucks to park during snow storms of six inches or more instead of parking along highway ramps and shoulders. They also announced a new "mobile app" that gives truckers an easy way to navigate to these six new lots and to existing truck parking, bringing the total truck parking options during a storm to 45 across the State.

"Providing truckers with a safe harbor in a storm will keep drivers and truckers safe during severe winter weather and will be critical to allowing our road crews to clear the highways," said Transportation Secretary Swaim-Staley. "Using the latest technology to make the truck parking easy to find is just one more proactive measure toward keeping travelers safe during storms and allowing the transportation system to quickly return to efficient operation once the storm has passed."

The park and ride lots include facilities owned and operated by MDOT's State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), which will manage snow removal on the lots. With winter officially starting this week, Maryland Motor Truck

Association President and CEO Louis Campion and I-95 Corridor Coalition Executive Director George Schoener re-iterated the importance of offering their members alternative places to park their trucks if snow storms and accumulations on the highways make it difficult to safely maneuver.

"Snow emergencies often result in truck drivers scrambling to find a safe haven," said Maryland Motor Truck Association President Campion. "MMTA applauds the Department of Transportation for undertaking this pilot to maximize available parking around the state for those professional drivers who find themselves on the road during major winter events."

All the parking options are now much easier to access electronically, instead of traditional paper maps or viewing the on-line map. The regular and new emergency truck parking lots can be viewed in three different ways:

- an interactive map accessible from a personal computer's web browser,
- a downloadable pdf map to be viewed and printed and
- a mobile device application.

In order to download the map application on a mobile smart phone, users must have iPhone iOS 5+, iPad iOS 3+, Android 2.2+ or BlackBerry 6+. The application can be downloaded by using a mobile device at <http://www.roads.maryland.gov>, where you click on the truck icon to access the Emergency Truck Parking page.

SHA developed the mobile/smart phone application that identifies the trucker's current location using the smart phone's internal GPS and nearby lots on the map. The nearby lots show location, exits and mileage from the trucker's location. On the mobile application, a truck's location is shown with a blue circle while regular truck parking options are shown with a green tab and the emergency truck parking in park and ride lots are shown with blue tabs. Maryland State law requires mobile applications and texts to be read when not operating a vehicle, so truckers will need to view the application while fueling or stopped and off of the roadway.

The interactive desktop map offers the same map displaying regular truck parking in green and the emergency parking lots in blue. The interactive map also provides point-to-point directions to the lots, with a road map or satellite view.

In addition to the mobile application, the interactive desktop map and the downloadable pdf, MDOT and SHA will reach out to truckers through trade media, a targeted email blast to the industry and through the Maryland Motor Truck Association and the I-95 Corridor Coalition.

"I-95 Corridor Coalition is thrilled to offer support for long-distance truckers who may not know the area and feel uncomfortable going too far from the main highway," said I-95 Corridor Coalition Executive Director Schoener. "Keeping commerce moving along the corridor is critical to economic viability and recovery."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 30, 2011**Contact:** Sgt. Jonathan Green 410-537-7724 or 410-977-5772 (cell)**BRING YOUR TOYS FOR TOTS ON YOUR COMMUTE**

BALTIMORE, MD – Join the Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) Police, **MDTA** staff and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in the national Toys for Tots campaign at the Baltimore harbor crossings. Since 1990, **MDTA** employees have collected more than 123,000 toys from customers of the toll facilities, Port of Baltimore and Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Glen Burnie office.

On **Dec. 7, 8 and 9 from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.**, employees will collect **new, unwrapped toys** at the Baltimore Harbor and Fort McHenry tunnels (I-895,

I-95/I-395) and the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695) and also at the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge (US 50/301), the Gov. Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) and the Dundalk Marine Terminal. Toys will be collected at the MVA in Glen Burnie from 8 – 11:30 a.m., with a drop-box available at other times. **New this year** – You may bring your toys to the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/ MD 200 at the Layhill Road (MD 182) interchange or to drop-off boxes available at the MVA Gaithersburg and Beltsville *E-ZPass* Stop-in Centers near the ICC/MD 200.

"We are excited about this opportunity for all of the citizens we serve to donate toys for those less fortunate, especially during these difficult times," said **MDTA** Executive Secretary Harold M. Bartlett. "Each year, the men and women of the **MDTA** look forward to assisting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in this wonderful campaign. In fact, I will join the fun on Dec. 8 at the Fort McHenry Tunnel, where I'll help collect toys from 6 – 7 a.m."

Toll facility customers who wish to donate toys should use the far-right toll lane and follow directions from Santa, uniformed **MDTA** police officers or **MDTA** staff. (Note: This includes *E-ZPass*® customers who wish to drop off toys.) The **MDTA** Police remind drivers to keep safety in mind as they approach toy drop-off sites. Toys may be dropped off at designated sites during scheduled times only. **Toll collectors are unable to accept donations in the toll lanes.**

Toys collected at the Baltimore-area facilities will be given to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves base in northeast Baltimore for distribution.

For more information on the **MDTA's** collection efforts, visit mdta.maryland.gov. For more on the Toys for Tots program, visit toysfortots.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 30, 2011**Contact:** Sgt. Jonathan Green 410-537-7724 or 410-977-5772 (cell)**BRING YOUR TOYS FOR TOTS ON YOUR COMMUTE
TO THE ICC/LAYHILL ROAD INTERCHANGE**

BALTIMORE, MD – Join the Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) Police, **MDTA** staff and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in the national Toys for Tots campaign. Since 1990, **MDTA** employees have collected more than 123,000 toys from customers of the toll facilities, Port of Baltimore and Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Glen Burnie office. **New this year** – You may bring your toys to the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/

MD 200 at the Layhill Road (MD 182) interchange or to drop-off boxes available at the MVA Gaithersburg and Beltsville *E-ZPass* Stop-in Centers near the ICC/MD 200.

On **Dec. 7, 8 and 9 from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.**, employees will collect **new, unwrapped toys** at the ICC/Layhill Road Interchange. Customers who wish to donate toys should follow directions from uniformed **MDTA** police officers or **MDTA** maintenance staff, who will be on the right shoulders of the **ramps from eastbound and westbound ICC to Layhill Road**. Officers will direct motorists who need to re-enter the ICC.

"We are excited about this opportunity for all of the citizens we serve to donate toys for those less fortunate, especially during these difficult times," said **MDTA** Executive Secretary Harold M. Bartlett. "Each year, the men and women of the **MDTA** look forward to assisting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in this wonderful campaign."

The **MDTA** Police remind drivers to keep safety in mind as they approach toy drop-off sites. Toys may be dropped off at designated sites during scheduled times only. In addition, you may bring items to drop-off boxes at the **MVA Gaithersburg and Beltsville E-ZPass Stop-in Centers** located at 15 Metropolitan Grove Road and 11760 Baltimore Avenue respectively during operating hours.

MDTA employees also will collect new, unwrapped toys at the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge (US 50/301), the Gov. Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), the Baltimore Harbor and Fort McHenry tunnels (I-895, I-95/I-395), the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40), the Dundalk Marine Terminal and the MVA in Glen Burnie.

Toys collected at the ICC will be given to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves base in Baltimore for distribution.

For more information on the **MDTA's** collection efforts, visit mdta.maryland.gov. For more on the Toys for Tots program, visit toysfortots.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONNECTOR**Nov. 21, 2011**

Contact: Marc Goldberg, Lt. Governor's Office
 Office: 410-260-3888
 Cell: 433-336-3032

Cheryl Sparks, MDTA
 Office: 410-537-1017
 Cell: 410-365-0425

**LT. GOVERNOR BROWN OFFICIALLY OPENS NEXT
 SECTION OF INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR**

*I-370 to I-95 will be open to traffic tomorrow by 6 a.m.;
 Motorists can travel ICC for free through Dec. 4*

LAUREL, MD (Nov. 21, 2011) – Today, Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, U.S. Deputy Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and Members of the Congressional and State delegations today led a contingent of federal, state and local officials in opening the next 10-mile segment of Maryland's Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 by cutting a ceremonial ribbon and taking a test drive on the first portion of the roadway to extend into Prince George's County. Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley announced that this new section will be open to traffic by 6 a.m. tomorrow, and drivers will be able to "test drive" the ICC at no charge through Dec. 4.

"After five decades of debate and discussion, we are now celebrating the opening of a state-of-the-art roadway that connects the I-270 high tech corridor and the I-95 business corridor," said Lt. Governor Brown. "Not only did the ICC create thousands of jobs during construction, it will now help to stimulate business growth and economic development along the entire corridor."

"To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "The completion of this next section of the ICC has created much-needed jobs for our hardworking families and will help reduce congestion in our State while connecting citizens to jobs and economic opportunities from I-270 to I-95. Together, working with our federal, state and local partners, we have made a critical investment in our State's infrastructure that will continue to promote economic growth in our region and secure the future of transit in Maryland."

The ICC/MD 200 is an east-west electronically tolled highway connecting Montgomery and Prince George's counties that has been in the making for more than half a century. The first segment of the ICC, which connects I-270/I-370 and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in Rockville/Olney, opened to traffic in February. The section that opens to traffic tomorrow extends the ICC from MD 97 to Interstate 95 near Laurel.

"The ICC serves as a vital connection between Montgomery and Prince George's counties, giving people living and commuting through these counties better access to jobs and business opportunities," U.S. Deputy Transportation Secretary Porcari said.

As a major economic catalyst, the \$2.5 billion ICC project created 4,500 jobs, involving more than 200 contractors during its construction, with \$330 million designated specifically for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). An independent study by the University of Maryland projected that the ICC, when fully open, will support the development of up to 14,000 jobs in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. The same study also found the

ICC will save Maryland drivers and businesses an estimated \$6.7 billion over the next 20 years in time, fuel and wear-and-tear on vehicles.

"Investments in construction and transportation projects are the best way for government to help create jobs and jumpstart economic recovery in our State," said Speaker Michael E. Busch. "I am pleased that we were able to complete this important project in the Washington suburbs: relieving traffic congestion, supporting local companies that do business in the area, and adding an important arm to our transportation network."

Studies have shown that trip times can be reduced by up to 70 percent by using the ICC. For example, traveling from the Shady Grove Metro Station to Georgia Avenue on the existing local road network takes approximately 22 minutes, compared to just 7 minutes on the ICC. Similarly, travel between Gaithersburg and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport takes approximately 71 minutes on local roads, compared to only 37 minutes using the ICC, a total time savings of nearly 50 percent.

"I personally want to thank everyone who worked on this project for having it ready to open to traffic in time for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday weekend," Lt. Governor Brown noted, "which as we all know is the busiest travel weekend of the year."

Once the new segment opens to traffic tomorrow, drivers will be able to enter and exit the ICC at the following locations: I-370/Shady Grove/Metro Access Road, MD 97/Georgia Avenue, Layhill Road, New Hampshire Avenue, US 29, Briggs Chaney Road, and I-95. A final segment of the ICC from I-95 eastbound to US 1 is tentatively scheduled to open in spring 2014.

The ICC is the "greenest" highway in Maryland's history, and one of the "greenest" ever built in the nation. More than 15 percent of the project's budget -- \$370 million -- is devoted to mitigating environmental impacts. Going beyond federal mitigation requirements, construction has included miles of stream restorations, hundreds of acres of new wetlands and forest habitat, longer bridges over sensitive streams, innovative storm-water improvements, state-of-the-art construction techniques to limit the road's footprint, and 26 wildlife passages.

"The opening of the ICC links two of Maryland's great counties together and enhances the range of transportation options for our residents," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The ICC will enhance the range of transportation options for our residents and businesses, and it signals a bold new direction in inter-county cooperation and collaboration. We are also very excited about the possibilities for economic development that the ICC will bring to our county. Possibilities that can enhance our ability to attract more families and businesses to Prince George's County. I want to thank Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown, and the Maryland Department of Transportation for this investment in our residents and the future of Prince George's County."

The ICC is a variably priced toll facility to help manage congestion and deliver reliable travel times. All-electronic tolling helps to maintain free-flowing traffic conditions and improve air quality by eliminating stop-and-go traffic at toll plazas. Tolls are collected at highway speeds using *E-ZPass*® and video tolling. When opened to I-95, the ICC per-mile toll rates remain the same as rates charged today. The Video Toll Rate (VTR) is 150 percent of the applicable *E-ZPass* toll rate, with a minimum video toll charge of \$1/maximum of \$15 above the *E-ZPass* rate.

In January 2012, three new Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) commuter bus routes will begin express service from Columbia to Bethesda, Urbana to College Park, and Greenbelt Metro to Germantown Transit Center. These new routes will provide commuters with a convenient link to reach Metro's Red and Green Lines and all three MARC Lines: Brunswick,

Camden, and Penn. The MTA currently operates commuter bus service on the ICC between the Gaithersburg Park & Ride and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, and between the Gaithersburg Park & Ride and Fort Meade. MTA will offer bus service for free for the first two weeks of service. For more information, visit www.mtaiccbus.com.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is managing ICC construction, and the MDTA helped finance, owns, operates and maintains the ICC. For more on ICC operations, visit www.mdtamaryland.gov. To sign up for E-ZPass, visit www.ezpassmd.com. For more details on the ICC construction project or its environmental program, visit www.iccproject.com.

Dateline for the ICC Opening:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 22, by 6:00 a.m.:** ICC opens to I-95 (weather permitting).
- **Tuesday, Nov. 22 – Sunday, Dec. 4 at midnight:** Test-drive period -- no tolls will be collected on the entire roadway from I-370 to I-95.
- **Monday, Dec. 5, 12:01 a.m.:** Toll collection begins on the entire roadway from I-370 to I-95.
- **January 2012:** Three new MTA commuter bus lines begin service. The service is free for two weeks.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 21, 2011

Contact: Cheryl Sparks, MDTA, 410-537-1017

****MEDIA ADVISORY**** **IMPORTANT STAGING DETAILS TO CAPTURE** **ICC OPENING TRAFFIC ON TUESDAY, NOV. 22**

WHAT: *The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and State Highway Administration (SHA) will stage media interested in capturing opening traffic on the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 along the main travel lanes of the ICC near the I-95 interchange.*

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 4:30-7 a.m. (staging and interviews with MDTA staff) 4:30-6:30 p.m. (staging only) *Note: these are the ONLY times staging will be permitted.*

WHERE: Adjacent to eastbound ICC/MD 200 travel lanes just prior to the I-95 interchange. Media will access the staging area, which will be separated from travel lanes by barrier and truck-mounted attenuators, via northbound US 29 to eastbound ICC/MD 200.

Media planning to attend 410-537-1017 or at tmoss@mdta.maryland.gov and specify arrival time, number of vehicles and purpose (b-roll/photos only, live shots, etc.).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 17, 2011**Contact:** Cheryl Sparks or Teri Moss

410-537-1017

**BUSY THANKSGIVING WEEK
ANTICIPATED AT MARYLAND'S TOLL FACILITIES**
Motorists Reminded - Plan Ahead, Know Before You Go!

****REVISED****

BALTIMORE, MD -- As the Thanksgiving holiday period approaches, the Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) reminds motorists to travel during off-peak hours, stay alert and Know Before You Go to avoid travel delays. Based on traffic counts from previous years, Wednesday is expected to be the heaviest travel day, with many travelers also expected to hit the roads Tuesday.

The **MDTA** anticipates traffic volumes to remain consistent with last year's figures. Between **Tuesday, Nov. 24**, and Sunday, Nov. 27, the **MDTA** expects nearly 2.8 million travelers on its highways, bridges and tunnels:

- More than 772,000 vehicles to travel the Fort McHenry Tunnel (I-95).
- More than 659,000 vehicles to travel the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95).
- Nearly 466,000 vehicles to cross the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge (US 50/301).
- An additional 854,000 vehicles to use the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel (I-895), the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) and the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) combined.

All figures represent traffic volumes in both directions.

The second section of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) MD 200, is scheduled to open to traffic by 6 a.m. Nov. 22, connecting Montgomery and Prince George's counties from I-270/I-370 at Shady Grove to I-95 at Laurel. Motorists will have the opportunity to travel the ICC's entire length at no cost from Nov. 22 through Dec. 4 to allow the MDTA to test the tolling equipment under actual traffic conditions. During the holiday period, traffic on the ICC and its interchanges may be heavy as motorists take advantage of the 'test drive' period and travel-time savings.

The **MDTA** offers the following tips to help motorists reach their destinations safely this holiday weekend:

- Travel during off-peak hours to avoid significant delays. For the I-95 corridor, off-peak hours include:
 - Tuesday and Wednesday -- **before 6 a.m. and after 11 p.m.**
 - Thursday through Sunday -- **before 9 a.m. and after 9 p.m.**
- Know Before You Go:
- Call **511** or visit **MD511.org** for statewide travel information.
- Call **1-877-BAYSPAN (229-7726)** or visit **baybridge.com** for 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic information.

Stay Alert -- it is **illegal** to text and use hand-held cell phones while driving in Maryland.

- Get *E-ZPass*® to avoid long lines at the toll plazas – Visit **ezpassmd.com** for *E-ZPass* “On the Go” retail locations and to enroll on-line.
- Make sure your vehicle is “road ready.” Just one disabled vehicle can contribute to extensive back-ups.
- If your vehicle becomes disabled, remain inside and call #77 for assistance.
- **Move-over** – When passing by an emergency situation, drivers should move to a lane away from the incident, if possible, for your safety and the safety of emergency personnel. If you are unable to move over, slow down.
- Do not change lanes when traveling over bridges and through tunnels.

The **MDTA** is committed to safe and convenient travel and will lift construction-related temporary lane closures from Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 9 a.m. **MDTA**'s Vehicle Recovery Units will be available to assist motorists whose vehicles break down. Variable message signs will display traffic information including travel time, delays and detour routes. **MDTA** Police will remain vigilant and on the look out for aggressive and impaired drivers, seatbelt violators and criminal activity.

In accordance with the State's service-reduction plan, **MDTA** offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 25, including the *E-ZPass* Maryland Stop-in Centers and Customer Service Center. Customers may visit **ezpassmd.com** or utilize the interactive voice response system at 1-888-321-6824 to sign up for *E-ZPass*, update account information or make payments via credit card.

- Get *E-ZPass*® to avoid long lines at the toll plazas – Visit **ezpassmd.com** for *E-ZPass* “On the Go” retail locations and to enroll on-line.
- Make sure your vehicle is “road ready.” Just one disabled vehicle can contribute to extensive back-ups.
- If your vehicle becomes disabled, remain inside and call #77 for assistance.
- **Move-over** – When passing by an emergency situation, drivers should move to a lane away from the incident, if possible, for your safety and the safety of emergency personnel. If you are unable to move over, slow down.
- Do not change lanes when traveling over bridges and through tunnels.

The **MDTA** is committed to safe and convenient travel and will lift construction-related temporary lane closures from Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 9 a.m. **MDTA**'s Vehicle Recovery Units will be available to assist motorists whose vehicles break down. Variable message signs will display traffic information including travel time, delays and detour routes. **MDTA** Police will remain vigilant and on the look out for aggressive and impaired drivers, seatbelt violators and criminal activity.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 14, 2011

Contact: Kelly Melhem or Teri Moss
410-537-1017

**PRESERVATION PROJECTS ON I-695 AND I-895
BRIDGES OVER PATAPSCO RIVER**



BALTIMORE, MD – As part of its commitment to preserving and maintaining the State's aging toll bridges, tunnels and highways, the Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) announces a \$6.8 million project to preserve the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695) and a nearly \$3 million project to rehabilitate part of the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel Thruway (I-895).

Klicos Painting Co. of Baltimore is performing work outside the main span of the Key Bridge, which consists of cleaning and painting exposed structural steel surfaces and girders, repairing drainage troughs, and miscellaneous repairs of the approach spans in both directions of the bridge. Repairs and painting will address areas of corrosion and paint deterioration, restore the structural members of the bridge and extend its useful life.

Crews have begun installing cables for platforms and containment structures. Work is scheduled to be complete by summer 2013. Completed in 1977 and carrying I-695 traffic over the Patapsco River, the Key Bridge underwent painting of its main span and replacement of drainage troughs in 2006.

On the I-895 bridge over the Patapsco River, located approximately 2.5 miles south of the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, work to repair deteriorating concrete of the bridge piers begins this month and is being performed by Cianbro Corporation of Baltimore. The project also includes in-river scour (erosion) repairs and protection and other miscellaneous structural repairs to the approximately one-half-mile bridge. This project is anticipated to be complete in fall 2013.

The Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, including approach roadways, opened to traffic in 1957. The most recent improvements to this area involved widening the bridge by approximately 16 feet in the early 1980s.

Both projects are funded completely by toll revenue. Work may require temporary lane closures during off-peak travel times. No closures are permitted the day preceding or following a major holiday. Work on I-895 is prohibited two hours before, during, or after a stadium event.

For information on the **MDTA's** other system preservation projects, or to view real-time traffic camera images on **MDTA** roadways, visit **mdta.maryland.gov**. For statewide travel conditions, visit **MD511.ORG** or call 511. The MDTA thanks its customers for their patience and reminds them to ***Stay Alert So No One Gets Hurt!!***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 4, 2011

Contact: Kelly Melhem or Teri Moss
410-537-1017

**WORK ON TYDINGS BRIDGE TO RESULT IN
CONTINUOUS LANE CLOSURES ON SOUTHBOUND I-95**

Work Zone Utilizing SafeZones Program to Protect Workers and Motorists

BALTIMORE, MD – As part of its continuing efforts to preserve and maintain its aging facilities, the Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) announces a seven-month project to install new bridge joints on the southbound Millard E. Tydings Memorial Bridge (I-95). Funded completely from toll revenue, the \$5.8 million project also includes a new drainage system below the bridge joints on the northbound bridge.

Built in 1962, the six-lane, one-mile bridge on I-95 carries vehicles over the Susquehanna River between Harford and Cecil counties. Allowable lane closures **continuing through May 2012** are as follows:

On southbound I-95:

- **Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – periodic, single-lane closures.
- **BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT NOV. 6, Sundays 9 p.m. through Fridays 6 a.m.** – **continuous** single-lane closures. Two lanes will remain open.
- **Sundays through Thursdays from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning** – double-lane closures. One lane will remain open.
- Periodic traffic drags may be in effect nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. to set barrier wall. During traffic drags, police will bring vehicles to a reduced pace prior to the work zone.

On northbound I-95:

- **Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – periodic, single-lane closures.

No lane closures are permitted the day before, the day of, and the day after major holidays.

Pittsburgh-based Joseph P. Fay Company is performing the work, which includes removing existing steel plates and modular joints and installing steel finger-expansion joints on the southbound bridge; cleaning and painting structural steel; replacing portions of the concrete deck; and installing a new drainage system.

A project to replace the northbound bridge joints took place in 2007. Replacement of the southbound joints was put on hold until the Hatem Bridge (US 40) Preservation Project was complete to avoid continuous and simultaneous lane closures on both bridges.

ADD ONE: TYDINGS BRIDGE JOINTS PROJECT

As part of the *Maryland SafeZones* Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program, the

MDTA and MDTA Police in coordination with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and Maryland State Police (MSP) will deploy ASE equipment at this location periodically throughout the duration of the project. Advanced warning signs will be placed prior to the work zone to alert drivers of automated speed enforcement use, while a "speed trailer" will display drivers' speeds in advance of the enforcement vehicle. Per law, if a vehicle is recorded as traveling 12 or more miles over the posted speed limit (the posted speed is 65 mph at this location), a \$40 fine will be issued to the registered owner of the vehicle. Through December 6, warnings notices only will be issued.

Maryland SafeZones' goal is to slow drivers down in work zones, making them safe for workers, drivers and passengers. Even when workers are not present, work zones can be dangerous due to uneven pavement, lane shifts, reduced shoulders and other modifications. On average, 12 people are killed per year and nearly 1,500 injured in crashes in work zones in Maryland. In addition to this work zone location, the **MDTA's** I-95 Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) Project in Baltimore County and other SHA work zones throughout the state feature *SafeZones* enforcement. For more information on the program, visit **safezones.maryland.gov**.

The Maryland Transportation Authority is an independent State agency that finances, owns and operates the State's eight toll facilities. The Authority's Members, appointed by the Governor with consent of the State Senate, serve as the agency's policy-setting and governing body. Maryland's Secretary of Transportation serves as Authority Chairman.

For Immediate Release

Oct. 28, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks, 410-537-1017

ICC SET TO OPEN TO I-95 NOV. 22

*Test Drive the ICC at No Charge through Dec. 4;
Per-Mile Toll Rates Remain the Same as Current Rates on First Segment*

Baltimore, MD – Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Chairman Beverley K. Swaim-Staley today announced that the State will open the next 10.35 miles of Maryland's Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 by 6 a. m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011. With this opening, the ICC will connect Montgomery and Prince George's counties from I-270/I-370 at Shady Grove to I-95 at Laurel.

"By morning rush hour on Nov. 22, the ICC will finally link the I-270 and I-95 corridors providing motorists with a viable option to the existing congested local road network in Maryland's Washington suburban region," said MDTA Chairman Swaim-Staley. "I am also pleased to announce that our citizens will once again be able to 'test drive' the entire ICC at no charge between the opening on Nov. 22 through Dec. 4, helping us to test the tolling equipment under actual traffic conditions."

When full toll collection begins on the ICC on Dec. 5, drivers of cars and light trucks with *E-ZPass®* will pay a Peak toll rate of \$0.25/mile, Off-peak rate of \$0.20/mile and Overnight rate of \$0.10/mile as they do today to travel the ICC's first segment.



"The ICC per-mile toll rates, at the low end of the ICC tolling plan approved by the MDTA Board in December 2009, remain the same when we open the next segment," said MDTA Executive Secretary Harold M. Bartlett. "Our goal for the ICC is to provide reliable travel times between the I-270 and I-95 corridors. Today, the morning commute between Laurel and Gaithersburg takes about 47 minutes on stop-and-go local roads. This same trip will take just more than 17 minutes on the ICC."

The ICC is a variably priced toll facility where higher tolls are charged during peak-travel times (Monday – Friday, 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 7 p.m.) and reduced tolls are charged when traffic volumes are lower. ICC tolls are collected electronically at highway speeds using *E-ZPass* and video-tolling technology. There are no toll booths or cash toll collection on the ICC, Maryland's first all-electronic toll facility.

In addition to existing connections at I-270/I-370 at Shady Grove and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue), the next segment of the ICC will open up new connections at MD 182 (Layhill Road), MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue), US 29 (Columbia Pike), Briggs Chaney Road (Briggs Chaney to eastbound ICC and westbound ICC to Briggs Chaney) and at I-95 in Laurel.

To travel the entire ICC one way between I-95 and I-370, drivers of cars and light trucks with *E-ZPass* will pay \$4 in Peak hours, \$3.20 Off-peak and \$1.60 Overnight. Please refer to the attachments included with this release for the ICC/MD 200 Toll Schedules (I-270/I-370 to I-95).

Drivers without a valid *E-ZPass* account will pay a Video Toll Rate to travel the ICC. A Notice of Toll Due will be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle for the cost of the Video Toll, which is 150% of the *E-ZPass* toll rate, with a minimum video surcharge of \$1 and a maximum of \$15.

To sign up for *E-ZPass*, visit <http://www.ezpassmd.com/> to enroll online or get a list of *E-ZPass* "On the Go" retail locations. *E-ZPass* Stop-in Centers are located at local Motor Vehicle Administration offices in Gaithersburg and Beltsville and are adjacent to Maryland toll facilities.

For additional tolling information, visit www.mdtamaryland.gov/TollFacilities/ICC.html. The MDTA will review ICC toll rates periodically and may adjust them within the tolling plan approved by the MDTA Board to help manage traffic congestion and meet revenue needs.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is managing ICC construction, and the MDTA helped finance and owns, operates and maintains this new variably priced toll facility. The final segments of the ICC between I-95 and Virginia Manor Road and US 1 are anticipated to be complete in 2014.

Dateline for the ICC Opening:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 22, by 6:00 a.m.:** ICC opens to I-95 (weather permitting).
 - **Tuesday, Nov. 22 – Sunday, Dec. 4 at midnight:** Test-drive period -- no tolls will be collected on the entire roadway from I-370 to I-95.
 - **Monday, Dec. 5, 12:01 a.m.:** Toll collection begins on the entire roadway from I-370 to I-95.
-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 27, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks or Kelly Melhem
410-537-1017

REMINDER
NEW TOLL RATES & OTHER CHANGES
EFFECTIVE NOV. 1

BALTIMORE, MD – At 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011, new toll rates and other changes take effect at Maryland's toll facilities.

New two-axle toll rates at fixed toll facilities (does not include the Intercounty Connector):

- **E-ZPass®** Maryland Discount (commuter) rates:
 - From \$.40 to \$.75 at the Fort McHenry (I-95) and Baltimore Harbor (I-895) tunnels and the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695); from \$.80 to \$1.50 (round trip) at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95) and Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40); and from \$.60 to \$1 (round trip) at the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301). The Bay Bridge (US 50/301) commuter rate remains at \$1 per round trip until July 1, 2013. These rates are 75% off the cash rates.
- New **E-ZPass** Maryland Standard Plan rates (10% off the cash rate):
 - \$2.70 at the Fort McHenry and Harbor tunnels and the Key Bridge; \$5.40 at the Kennedy Highway and the Hatem Bridge; and \$3.60 at the Bay and Nice bridges.
- Cash toll rates:
 - From \$2 to \$3 at the Fort McHenry and Harbor tunnels and the Key Bridge; from \$5 to \$6 at the Kennedy Highway and the Hatem Bridge; from \$2.50 to \$4 at the Bay Bridge; and from \$3 to \$4 at the Nice Bridge.
- **E-ZPass** Maryland Shoppers Discount Plan at the Bay Bridge: 50% discount for 10 trips, good for 90 days Sunday through Thursday.
- Hatem Bridge T-series tickets: cost increases by 50%.

New Video Toll Rates for all vehicles at all Maryland toll facilities:

- Replace the \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee with new Video Toll Rates for vehicles traveling through a toll plaza without a valid **E-ZPass** or cash payment. The Video Rates are 150% of the cash rates with a minimum video surcharge of \$1 and a maximum of \$15.
- Replace the \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee with new Video Toll Rates for vehicles using the **Intercounty Connector (ICC) / MD 200** without a valid **E-ZPass**. The First Segment (I-370 to Georgia Avenue) Video Toll rates are 150% of the E-ZPass rates, with a minimum video surcharge of \$1 and a maximum of \$15.

New benefits for E-ZPass Maryland customers:

- New **E-ZPass** Maryland Standard Plan two-axle rates as noted above (10% off the cash rates).
- Monthly \$1.50 **E-ZPass** account fee is waived for accounts used to pay three or more tolls in the previous month in Maryland. (November toll payments reviewed for waiver eligibility; statements will reflect waiver if eligible beginning in December.)

Additional information and Video Toll Rates are on-line at www.mdt.maryland.gov. On Jan. 1, 2012, new toll rates and other changes for vehicles with three or more axles will take effect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 20, 2011

CONTACT: Kelly L. Melhem
410-537-1017



**GOVERNOR O'MALLEY APPOINTS NEW MEMBER
TO MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed Arthur Hock of Chestertown to serve as the newest Board Member of the **Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA)**.

A native of Queen Annes County, Mr. Hock served in the U.S. Navy before settling in Kent County 38 years ago. Currently, Mr. Hock owns a real- estate/property-management business and previously managed an excavation-contracting business and was a retail business owner.

"Our State faces a major infrastructure deficit where there is an urgent need to create jobs and preserve our tunnels, bridges and highways," said Governor O'Malley. "I am pleased to appoint Mr. Hock to serve on the Maryland Transportation Authority Board. His business knowledge and experience in Bay Bridge issues will help us continue to ensure that our State's transportation needs are met, and I am confident that he will greatly contribute to moving the MDTA forward."

Mr. Hock also has led an active civic life, serving on several local and State boards, including the Bay Bridge Watch Committee, Chestertown Historic District Commission, Kent and Queen Annes Hospital board, Kent County Sanitary District Commission, Chestertown Planning and Zoning Board and Marylands Judicial Nominations Commission.

"Mr. Hock's planning and zoning background and extensive public service experience will help keep this agency on solid ground during this critical time for our State's transportation network," said **MDTA** Chairman and Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley.

Mr. Hock has begun serving his term after being officially sworn in by the clerk of the circuit court in Chestertown.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve the people of the state of Maryland in this capacity," said Mr. Hock. "I believe my life experiences will enable me to be a productive Member of the **MDTA** Board. Governor O'Malley's confidence in my abilities to undertake this task is greatly appreciated."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 13, 2011

Contact: Kelly Melhem or Teri Moss
410-537-1017



**PROJECT TO REPAIR FOUNDATION OF I-95 TYDINGS BRIDGE
BEGINS**

Work to Result in Minimum Traffic Impacts

BALTIMORE MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) announces a nearly \$43 million preservation project to perform underwater foundation (concrete piers/bridge supports) repairs to the Millard E. Tydings Memorial Bridge on the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (Interstate 95). Funded by toll revenue, the project reflects the **MDTA's** continuing commitment to preserving and maintaining the State's aging toll bridges, tunnels and highways.

Work, anticipated to be complete by late 2013, will be performed in three stages for each pier. Ten of 13 bridge piers will be repaired – three piers are not located in the river and do not require work. The project will have minimal impact to vehicular and navigational traffic. No lane closures on I-95 will be required.

Tentatively, work on two piers will be performed concurrently in 2011, four in 2012 and four in 2013. Work sequencing occurs as follows ([see attached graphic](#)):

Stage 1:

- Excavation of the river bottom surrounding the piers to remove stone and debris and installation of cofferdams around the piers. A cofferdam is a temporary watertight enclosure that is pumped dry to expose the bridge foundations. Construction of each cofferdam may take about one month to complete.
- Removal of water and earth inside the cofferdams to expose the existing bridge foundations.
- Concrete placement inside the excavated cofferdam to create a protective layer for the existing "sub" foundation and to form a seal for the bottom of the cofferdam. The seal will allow the water inside the cofferdam to be pumped out, exposing the foundation of the bridge so that repairs can be made.
- Transporting material excavated from the river bottom. Materials will be disposed of at the Maryland Port Administration's Cox Creek Disposal site.

Stage 2:

- Repairing piers inside cofferdams, including removal and replacement of deteriorated concrete, reinforcing steel, repairing cracks, strengthening columns and constructing a protective reinforced concrete encasement around the repaired foundations.

Stage 3:

- Removing the cofferdams and restoring the river bottom to its original condition.

Environmental restrictions will be in effect between November 1 and April 1 on work that could disturb the river's bottom. Restrictions are necessary due to map-turtle hibernation habitat and to promote the growth of sub-aquatic vegetation. To the extent possible, the project was designed to minimize the disturbance or loss of submerged aquatic vegetation

beds.

Corman Marine, Inc. of Baltimore is performing the work. The John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway, which includes the Tydings Bridge, was opened to traffic in 1963. The bridge is located over the Susquehanna River between Harford and Cecil counties.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 22, 2011

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**GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY APPOINTS HAROLD M. BARTLETT
TO LEAD THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Maryland transportation veteran named Executive Secretary**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 27, 2011) – Governor Martin O'Malley today appointed Maryland transportation veteran Harold M. Bartlett as Executive Secretary of the **Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA)**. The Executive Secretary manages the MDTA's daily operations and works with eight Board members to establish policy and direction for the agency that owns and operates Maryland's eight toll facilities. Mr. Bartlett has served previously as Maryland's Deputy Transportation Secretary and Acting Executive Secretary of the **MDTA**. He entered state service following a 23-year career with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

"Harold understands that safety and customer service must be top priorities for the **Maryland Transportation Authority**," said Governor O'Malley. "I'd like to thank him for his outstanding commitment to improving the services we provide to the citizens of Maryland. With numerous accomplishments throughout his career in transportation, we are confident that he has the knowledge and skills that will help us continue to move the MDTA forward."

Mr. Bartlett was appointed as Deputy Transportation Secretary in September 2009 where he served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation, overseeing Maryland's highway, transit, aviation, maritime, and motor vehicle registration operations.

"Whether it be operations, safety, customer service or finance, Harold has the background and the leadership ability to tackle any challenge that is put before him," said Transportation Secretary and **MDTA** Chairman Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "He is unique in his ability to grasp the issues and pull together a team of people to get things done."

In August of 2010, while still serving as Deputy Secretary, Mr. Bartlett assumed the role of Acting Executive Secretary of the **MDTA**. He announced his intention to retire as Deputy Secretary in late 2010 and Governor O'Malley appointed Darrell B. Mobley as current Deputy Transportation Secretary. However, Mr. Bartlett agreed to stay on at the MDTA to oversee completion of the first seven-mile segment of the Intercounty Connector. He formally retired following its opening in February of this year.

"Governor O'Malley's appointment of Harold Bartlett to the **MDTA** brings once again to this agency an invaluable asset in fulfilling its mission," said Board member Dr. William C. Calhoun, Sr. "Harold's impeccable character, people skills, organizational and management expertise, and commitment to diversity will help the Authority to continue its mammoth work in providing a quality toll infrastructure for Maryland. As chair of the human resources committee of the **MDTA** Board we are happy to unanimously concur with Harold Bartlett's appointment as Executive Secretary."

"I am extremely pleased that Harold Bartlett has decided to return to the **MDTA**," added Board member Mary Beyer Halsey. "Having previously worked with him, I cannot say enough about the vast knowledge and experience he brings to the Authority. Harold's diplomatic management style was embraced by all. His leadership will surely enhance our existing staff and carry us through the many important projects we have still in progress."

From 1997 to 2006 Mr. Bartlett served as Secretary and Chief of Staff at WMATA. He was responsible for the oversight of financial operations, government and labor relations, security, information technology and customer relations. Mr. Bartlett was active in dealing directly with members of Congress to obtain construction funding for the completion of the 106-mile Metro system, as well as working to secure dedicated funding for WMATA.

"I am excited to return to the Maryland Transportation Authority," said Mr. Bartlett. "Few organizations directly touch as many citizens as the MDTA and our challenge is to deliver quality, safety and sound financial management. I thank Governor O'Malley for his confidence and I look forward to working with Secretary Swaim-Staley, the MDTA Board and the great team in place at the Authority."

Mr. Bartlett is a resident of Montgomery County. He received a Masters of Public Administration from San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Albany. He was active with both American Public Transit Association and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials. Mr. Bartlett is a veteran having served in the United States Navy.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 22, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks or Kelly Melhem
410-537-1017

NEW TOLLING PLAN APPROVED FOR MARYLAND TOLL FACILITIES Changes to toll proposal reflect public feedback; First changes take effect Nov. 1

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board today approved a revised tolling plan after considering substantial public comments received earlier this summer. The plan is projected to generate approximately \$90 million in its first full year to pay significant debt for rehabilitating MDTA's aging bridges, tunnels and highways and for constructing additional highway capacity in the Baltimore and Washington regions.

"During the last several weeks, the Board Members and I thoroughly reviewed with MDTA staff how we could revise the proposal based on the comments and suggestions from our citizens, customers and elected officials. Toll increases are needed, but I am pleased that we were able to make some adjustments to the plan, while securing the revenue needed to meet our fiscal and legal obligations," said MDTA Chairman and Transportation Secretary

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "These are tough decisions, but I can assure you that we listened. It was extremely beneficial for the Board Members and me to be in the communities during the 10 public hearings, listening to citizens who must cross some of our facilities more than once or twice a day. I thank everyone who shared their comments on the proposal and helped shape the plan we approved today."

The approved plan includes the following changes to the June 2 proposal based on public feedback:

- Adjusted cash tolls for the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge (US 50/301) and the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301); Adjusted tolls for three- and four-axle vehicles;
- A modified E-ZPass Maryland plan for the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) that keeps the cost for unlimited annual trips static at \$10 until July 1, 2013, and provides a longer transition to phase out AVI decals and T-Series and A-Series tickets;
- Waiving the \$1.50 monthly E-ZPass fee on accounts used to pay three or more tolls for the previous month at Maryland toll facilities;
- Increasing the commuter discount rate from the proposed 70% to 75% effective Nov. 1, 2011;
- Expanding the supplemental rebate program for vehicles with five or more axles;
- And maintaining a revised Shoppers Discount Program at the Bay Bridge.

In addition, the plan sets new Video Toll rates that are 150% of the cash/base rates – and not 125% as proposed – in place of the \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee. For the Intercounty Connector (ICC), Video Toll rate ranges are 150% of the current rate ranges.

During the 60-day public comment period from June 2 – Aug. 1, the MDTA received close to 4,000 comments. Nearly 60% of comments came from communities near the Hatem Bridge, John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95) and Bay Bridge. The Hatem Bridge AVI Decal portion of the proposal received the most opposition.

"Operationally, it is time for us to transition from antiquated toll-collection methods and technology, including AVI decals and ticket programs. But we understand that this is a big change for communities using the Hatem Bridge," said Acting MDTA Executive Secretary Randolph P. Brown, P.E. "We are planning an extended transition and outreach period to help customers make the switch to an E-ZPass Maryland Hatem Bridge Plan, offering free transponders for the first year of the program and keeping the cost at \$10 annually until July 1, 2013, for unlimited bridge trips."

The funds to finance, operate, preserve, maintain, improve and protect Maryland's eight toll facilities come directly from the tolls that customers pay and not from the State's Transportation Trust Fund or General Fund. The MDTA combines toll revenue from all facilities to pay operating costs and the debt on bonds that are issued to fund major projects. Revenue "pooling" makes the MDTA financially strong with top bond ratings to reduce borrowing costs.

The approved plan still allows Maryland to offer some of the most generous commuter discounts in the country and keeps overall toll rates comparable to those elsewhere in the region. It has been years, decades in some cases, since the MDTA raised many of its toll rates. Commuter toll rates were last raised in 1985 for Baltimore toll facilities and in 1983 for the Bay and Nice bridges. Toll rates for passenger vehicles were last raised in 2003 at the Baltimore toll facilities, the Kennedy Highway and the Hatem Bridge and in 2001 at the Nice Bridge. The Bay Bridge toll rate for passenger vehicles is lower now than when the original span opened in 1952, when drivers of passenger cars paid \$2.80 round trip, plus \$.25 per passenger. Toll rates for vehicles with three or more axles were last raised at all facilities in 2009.

The approved tolling plan and Public Comment Summary Final Report are available at www.mdt.maryland.gov. Specifics of the plan effective Nov. 1, 2011:

- Create a new 10% discount off the cash/base rates at fixed-toll facilities (not the ICC) for E-ZPass Maryland customers driving two-axle vehicles (with a valid account and transponder that does not include a discount plan for that facility).
- Waive the \$1.50 monthly E-ZPass fee on accounts used to pay three or more tolls for the previous month at Maryland toll facilities.
- Adjust cash/base toll rates for passenger cars, light trucks and motorcycles (two-axle vehicles) from \$2 to \$3 at the Fort McHenry (I-95, I-395) and Baltimore Harbor (I-895) tunnels and the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695); from \$5 to \$6 at the Kennedy Highway and the Hatem Bridge; from \$2.50 to \$4 at the Bay Bridge; and from \$3 to \$4 at the Nice Bridge. Additional increases take effect July 1, 2013.
- Adjust E-ZPass Maryland Discount Plan (commuter) rates from \$.40 to \$.75 at the Fort McHenry and Harbor tunnels and the Key Bridge; from \$.80 to \$1.50 (round trip) at the Kennedy Highway and Hatem Bridge; and from \$.60 to \$1 (round trip) at the Nice Bridge. The Bay Bridge commuter rate remains at \$1 per round trip until July 1, 2013. These rates are 75% off the cash/base rates and change to a 65% discount July 1, 2013.
- Revise and maintain the Shoppers Discount Plan at the Bay Bridge with a 50% discount for 10 trips, good for 90 days Sunday through Thursday.
- Implement Video Toll Rates for vehicles traveling through a toll plaza without a valid E-ZPass or cash payment. The Video Rate replaces the existing \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee and is 150% of the cash/base rate. There is a minimum video surcharge of \$1 and a maximum of \$15.
- Implement a Video Toll rate range for the ICC. The video rate replaces the \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee added to the toll per trip when drivers use the ICC without a valid E-ZPass. The Video Toll ranges are 150% of the mileage rate ranges approved in 2009. There is a minimum video surcharge of \$1 and a maximum of \$15.

Specifics of the proposal affecting Hatem Bridge users:

- Transition from the AVI Decal to E-ZPass MD Hatem Bridge programs by Sept. 30, 2012. The E-ZPass program will provide unlimited two-axle vehicle trips across the bridge at the current cost of \$10 annually until July 1, 2013, when the price will increase to \$20 per year. With a Hatem Bridge specific transponder, there are no monthly account fees or pre-paid tolls, and the transponder is free until Jan. 31, 2013.
- Phase out T-Series and A-Series tickets.

Specifics of the proposal effective Jan. 1, 2012:

- Adjust toll rates for vehicles with three and four axles and vehicles towing light trailers by reducing the multipliers used to set these rates for fixed-toll facilities. This results in no change to toll rates at some facilities and reduces current rates at others. Toll increases take effect July 1, 2013.
- Adjust toll rates for vehicles with five or more axles, including a \$6-\$8 increase per trip depending on the number of axles at the Fort McHenry and Harbor tunnels and the Key Bridge; a \$6-\$7 increase per trip at the Kennedy Highway and Hatem Bridge; and a \$9-\$12 increase per trip at the Bay and Nice bridges. Additional increases take effect July 1, 2013.
- Restructure post-usage discounts for E-ZPass Maryland business accounts based on usage at eligible MDTA toll facilities and limit discounts to vehicles with five or more axles.
- Restructure the supplemental rebate program for E-ZPass Maryland business accounts to include only vehicles with five or more axles and to expand the rebates to vehicles making 60 or more trips monthly at eligible MDTA facilities.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 28, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE UNDER WIND RESTRICTIONS

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) has reopened and is operating under PHASE II WIND RESTRICTIONS due to sustained winds of 42-45 mph and wind gusts of 53 mph.

Other MDTA facilities are operating as follows:

- The Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95), - Phase II Wind Restrictions.
- House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that may not safely cross the bridge are prohibited from traveling the bridge.
- The Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) - Phase I Wind Warnings.

Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 28, 2011

HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 5:45 A.M.

BALTIMORE, MD – The Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) has reopened to traffic and is operating under Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge. Officials are currently alternating traffic in each direction on the bridge.

- Wind Restrictions are also in effect at the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695).
- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) remains CLOSED.
- The Tydings Memorial (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40) bridges are operating under Wind Warnings. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides and any vehicle subject to high winds should use caution when traveling the bridge.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 28, 2011

HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 5 A.M.

BALTIMORE, MD – The Tydings Memorial (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40) bridges are now operating under Wind Warnings. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle subject to high winds should use caution when traveling the bridge.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) and Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) remain CLOSED.

Wind Restrictions are still in effect at the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695). House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 28, 2011****HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 12:01 A.M.**

BALTIMORE, MD – The Harry W. Nice Memorial (US 301) was closed at approximately 12:01 a.m. today as a result of severe winds and unsafe driving conditions due to Hurricane Irene. The bridge is experiencing sustained winds of 59 mph and wind gusts over 60 mph and will remain closed until conditions are deemed safe for vehicles to cross.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) also remains CLOSED.

The Tydings Memorial (I-95), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40) and the Francis Scott Key (I-695) bridges are all under Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

At the Key Bridge, only automobiles, pick-up trucks, flatbed trailers, commercial buses and heavy-laden tractor trailers are permitted to cross. Tractor-box trailers weighing less than 64,000 pounds are prohibited.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 27, 2011**

HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 10:45 p.m.

BALTIMORE, MD – The Tydings Memorial (I-95), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40), the Harry W. Nice Memorial (US 301) and the Francis Scott Key (I-695) bridges are all now under Phase II Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Officials are also alternating traffic in both directions on the Nice Bridge due to standing water in the southbound lane.

- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) remains CLOSED.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 27, 2011****HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 10 p.m.**

BALTIMORE, MD – As of 9:15 p.m. today, the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) was placed under Phase II Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge. Officials are also alternating traffic in both directions on the bridge due to standing water in the southbound lane.

Other MDTA facilities continue to operate under the following conditions:

- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is CLOSED.
- The Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695) is operating under Wind Restrictions.
- The Tydings Memorial Bridge (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) are operating under Wind Warnings. Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling these two bridges.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726. www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 27, 2011****HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE**

BALTIMORE, MD – As of 8:30 p.m. today, the Francis Scott Key Bridge was placed under Phase II Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that can not safely cross is prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Other MDTA facilities are operating under the following conditions:

- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is closed.
- The Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), the Tydings Memorial Bridge (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) are operating under wind warnings.

Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling across these bridges.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in Maryland. Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.delldot.gov and announced on WTMC-AM (1380). Motorists may access conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511 statewide travel information including traffic and weather. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency stresses awareness and preparedness as Hurricane Irene approaches Maryland. Go to www.mema.state.md.us for the latest storm track and preparedness information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE CLOSED

Nice, Key, Tydings and Hatem Bridges in Wind Warnings

BALTIMORE, MD – The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) was closed at approximately 7:35 p.m. today as a result of severe winds and unsafe driving conditions due to Hurricane Irene.

The bridge is experiencing sustained winds of more than 62 mph and wind gusts of 72-80 mph and will remain closed until conditions are deemed safe for vehicles to cross.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in Maryland. Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.delldot.gov and announced on WTMC-AM (1380).

MDTA's four additional bridges including the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), the Tydings Memorial Bridge (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) are operating under wind warnings.

Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use

caution while traveling across these bridges.

Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE UNDER PHASE III WIND RESTRICTIONS

As of 4:11 p.m. today, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is operating under PHASE III WIND RESTRICTIONS due to sustained winds of more than 50 mph and wind gusts of 53 mph.

Additionally, as of 1:35 p.m. today, wind warnings were implemented at the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) due to sustained wind speeds of 30 - 32 mph and gusts to 36 mph. Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling across the bridge.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in Maryland. Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.deldot.gov and announced on WTMC-AM (1380).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE UNDER WIND RESTRICTIONS

BALTIMORE, MD – As of 3:05 p.m. today, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is operating under PHASE II WIND RESTRICTIONS due to sustained winds of 42-45 mph and wind gusts of 53 mph.

House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that may not safely cross the bridge are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Once sustained winds exceed 50 mph, only automobiles, pickups trucks, flatbed trailers, commercial busses and heavy laden tractor trailers will be permitted to cross the bridge. Tractor-box trailers weighing less than 64,000 pounds will not be permitted to cross. If sustained wind speeds reach 55 mph, the Bay Bridge will be closed.

Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

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Aug. 28, 2011

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- The Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) - Phase I Wind Warnings.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 28, 2011

HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 5:45 A.M.

BALTIMORE, MD – The Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) has reopened to traffic and is operating under Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge. Officials are currently alternating traffic in each direction on the bridge.

- Wind Restrictions are also in effect at the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695).
- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) remains CLOSED.
- The Tydings Memorial (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40) bridges are operating under Wind Warnings.
- House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides and any vehicle subject to high winds should use caution when traveling the bridge.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or by calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

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BALTIMORE, MD – The Tydings Memorial (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40) bridges are now operating under Wind Warnings. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle subject to high winds should use caution when traveling the bridge.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) and Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) remain CLOSED.

Wind Restrictions are still in effect at the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695). House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 28, 2011****HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 12:01 A.M.**

BALTIMORE, MD – The Harry W. Nice Memorial (US 301) was closed at approximately 12:01 a.m. today as a result of severe winds and unsafe driving conditions due to Hurricane Irene.

The bridge is experiencing sustained winds of 59 mph and wind gusts over 60 mph and will remain closed until conditions are deemed safe for vehicles to cross.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

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BALTIMORE, MD – The Tydings Memorial (I-95), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial (US 40), the Harry W. Nice Memorial (US 301) and the Francis Scott Key (I-695) bridges are all now under Phase II Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that cannot safely cross are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Officials are also alternating traffic in both directions on the Nice Bridge due to standing water in the southbound lane.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) remains CLOSED.

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Aug. 27, 2011

HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE – 10 p.m.

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- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is CLOSED.

- The Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695) is operating under Wind Restrictions.
- The Tydings Memorial Bridge (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) are operating under Wind Warnings. Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling these two bridges.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

HURRICANE IRENE MDTA FACILITY UPDATE

BALTIMORE, MD – As of 8:30 p.m. today, the Francis Scott Key Bridge was placed under Phase II Wind Restrictions. House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that can not safely cross is prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Other MDTA facilities are operating under the following conditions:

- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is closed.
- (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) are operating under wind warnings.
- The Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), the Tydings Memorial Bridge

Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling across these bridges.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in Maryland.

Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.deldot.gov and announced on WTMC-AM (1380). Motorists may access conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511. Statewide travel information including traffic and weather 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE CLOSED
Nice, Key, Tydings and Hatem Bridges in Wind Warnings

BALTIMORE, MD – The Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) was closed at approximately 7:35 p.m. today as a result of severe winds and unsafe driving conditions due to Hurricane Irene.

The bridge is experiencing sustained winds of more than 62 mph and wind gusts of 72-80 mph and will remain closed until conditions are deemed safe for vehicles to cross.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in Maryland. Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.deldot.gov and announced on WTMG-AM (1380).

MDTA's four additional bridges including the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301), the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), the Tydings Memorial Bridge (I-95) and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) are operating under wind warnings.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE UNDER PHASE III WIND RESTRICTIONS

As of 4:11 p.m. today, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is operating under PHASE III WIND RESTRICTIONS due to sustained winds of more than 50 mph and wind gusts of 53 mph.

Additionally, as of 1:35 p.m. today, wind warnings were implemented at the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) due to sustained wind speeds of 30 - 32 mph and gusts to 36 mph. Operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling across the bridge.

Citizens are encouraged not to travel unless absolutely necessary. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in

Maryland. Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.deldot.gov and announced on WTMC-AM (1380).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2011

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE UNDER WIND RESTRICTIONS

BALTIMORE, MD – As of 3:05 p.m. today, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) is operating under PHASE II WIND RESTRICTIONS due to sustained winds of 42-45 mph and wind gusts of 53 mph.

House trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that may not safely cross the bridge are prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Once sustained winds exceed 50 mph, only automobiles, pickups trucks, flatbed trailers, commercial busses and heavy laden tractor trailers will be permitted to cross the bridge. Tractor-box trailers weighing less than 64,000 pounds will not be permitted to cross. If sustained wind speeds reach 55 mph, the Bay Bridge will be closed.

Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency stresses awareness and preparedness as Hurricane Irene approaches Maryland. Go to www.mema.state.md.us for the latest storm track and preparedness information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 26, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks or Teri Moss

410-537-1017

MDTA HURRICANE IRENE UPDATE – ALL FACILITIES OPEN *Motorists Urged to Travel Prior to Saturday Morning*

BALTIMORE, MD – As of 1 p.m. today, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) and all of

MDTA facilities are open. The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) has no immediate plans to close any facilities in advance of the storm – every effort will be made to keep its bridges and tunnels open as long as conditions are safe for travelers.

Motorists crossing the Bay Bridge and other bridges are reminded current weather conditions will dictate their respective travel status. Closures will occur when sustained winds reach 55 miles per hour. Current forecasts indicate wind speeds could reach that point as early as Saturday afternoon. Anyone planning to travel from the Eastern Shore to the Western Shore to ride out the storm is encouraged to do so tonight or no later than early tomorrow morning. "The weather over the next 24 to 36 hours is unpredictable," said MDTA Chairman and Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "If you are planning to cross the Bay Bridge, don't wait until the last minute to do so. Westbound traffic is expected to be heavy so if you can, travel tonight and certainly no later than early tomorrow morning to make sure that you are able to cross before the weather deteriorates."

On MDTA bridges, closures for wind warnings and restrictions would be implemented as appropriate:

- Phase I - Wind Warning (sustained wind speeds of 30-39 mph) - operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling across the bridge.
- Phase II - Wind Restriction (sustained wind speeds of 40-49 mph) - house trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that -- in the opinion of law-enforcement personnel, may not safely cross the bridge -- will be prohibited from traveling the bridge.
- Phase III - Wind Restriction (sustained wind speeds exceeding 50 mph) – only automobiles, pickups trucks, flatbed trailers, commercial busses and heavy laden tractor trailers are permitted to cross the bridge. Tractor-box trailers weighing less than 64,000 pounds will not be permitted to cross.
- Phase IV - Wind Restriction (sustained winds exceeding 55 mph) – traffic may be held during these periods.

Queen Anne's County residents are under mandatory evacuation west of US 50/301 split. For motorists traveling from the Eastern Shore toward Baltimore or other points west, an alternate route for the Bay Bridge is northbound US 113, US 13 or DE 1 through Delaware, to southbound I-95 in Maryland. Delaware traffic information will be posted on www.deldot.gov and announced on WTMC-AM (1380).

Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.MD511.org or calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency stresses awareness and preparedness as Hurricane Irene approaches Maryland. Go to www.mema.state.md.us for the latest storm track and preparedness information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 25, 2011**

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks or Teri Moss
410-537-1017

MDTA PREPARES FOR HURRICANE IRENE

BALTIMORE, MD – As the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) prepares its eight toll facilities for potential impacts from Hurricane Irene, it has no immediate plans to close any of those facilities in anticipation of the storm. The MDTA will monitor conditions and make every effort to keep all its facilities open as long as conditions are deemed safe to do so.

Any decision to close a toll facility or roadway would be based upon current weather and road conditions at that facility or after consultation with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

On MDTA bridges, closures for wind warnings and restrictions would be implemented as appropriate:

Phase I - Wind Warning (sustained wind speeds of 30-39 mph) - operators of house trailers, box trailers, motorcycles, vehicles with roof-mount racks containing cargo or any other vehicle that may be subject to high winds are advised to use caution while traveling across the bridge.

Phase II - Wind Restriction (sustained wind speeds of 40-49 mph) - house trailers, empty box trailers, campers, recreational vehicles, hitch trailers with sides or any vehicle that -- in the opinion of law-enforcement personnel, may restrict wind and may not safely cross the bridge -- will be prohibited from traveling the bridge.

Phase III Wind Restriction (sustained wind speeds exceeding 50 mph) – only automobiles, pickups trucks, flatbed trailers, commercial busses and heavy laden tractor trailers are permitted to cross the bridge. Tractor-box trailers weighing less than 64,000 pounds will not be permitted to cross.

Phase IV Wind Restriction (sustained winds exceeding 55 mph) – traffic may be held during these periods.

In the event that wind warnings are issued at the Bay Bridge on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, MDTA will be unable to implement two-way traffic on the westbound span. This may result in significant eastbound delays.

The Fort McHenry (I-95) and Baltimore Harbor (I-895) tunnels will be monitored continuously during the storm. Pumps are being checked and established procedures are in place to deal with any substantial change in water levels along the Patapsco River. In addition, if standing water makes roads impassable at any MDTA facility, traffic will be held or detoured.

Motorists may access statewide travel information including traffic and weather conditions at www.511md.org or calling 511. 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions are available by calling the BAYSPAN Hotline at 1-877-229-7726.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency stresses awareness and preparedness as

Hurricane Irene approaches Maryland. Go to www.mema.state.md.us for the latest storm track and preparedness information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2011

Contact: Teri Moss or Kelly Melhem
410-537-1017

PAINTING PROJECT ON HATEM BRIDGE BEGINS
Preservation Work May Result in Off-Peak Lane Closures



WHAT: A \$10.8 million project is underway to preserve the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) by cleaning and painting portions of the steel above the top of the bridge piers and portions of the overhead truss, as well as spot painting areas below the roadway (bridge deck).

Temporary single-lane closures may be in effect in either direction Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Motorists may notice portions of the bridge below the deck will be enclosed with a containment system.

Work is being performed by Atlas Painting and Sheeting of Amherst, N.Y.

WHEN: This project is expected to be complete by late 2012.

WHY: Spot cleaning and painting will extend the bridge's useful life and help maintain its structural integrity. The last Hatem Bridge painting project took place in 1990.

This project reflects the MDTA's commitment to preserving and maintaining the State's aging toll bridges, tunnels and highways. Other Hatem Bridge projects in the final FY 2011-2016 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) include a \$66.8 million redecking project being completed this summer and a \$54.3 million project for underwater repairs to the bridge's foundation and substructure scheduled to begin this fall.

To view real-time traffic camera images on MDTA roadways, visit mdta.maryland.gov. For MDTA active lane closures, statewide traffic information and to view other traffic camera images statewide, visit traffic.maryland.gov.

The MDTA thanks its customers for their patience and reminds them to Stay Alert So No One Gets Hurt!!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**July 15, 2011**

Contact: Kelly Melhem or Teri Moss
410-537-1017

PAINTING OF WESTBOUND BAY BRIDGE BEGINS
Preservation Work to Result in Minimal Traffic Impacts



WHAT: A \$19.5 million project is underway to preserve the westbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US 50/301) by cleaning and painting steel girder spans. Work involves complete removal of the existing paint and repainting girders on the western shore portion of the westbound bridge.

To minimize traffic impacts, the majority of work will be performed under the bridge via barges; however, temporary, off-peak lane closures may be in effect for crews to paint railings, move equipment or install containment structures beneath the bridge.

Work is being performed by Atsalis Brothers Painting Company of Warren, Mich.

WHEN: Crews will begin mobilizing – installing platforms and containment structures – on or about July 18, 2011. This project is expected to be complete by fall 2012.

WHY: Cleaning and painting the girders will protect the bridge's steel components and help maintain its structural integrity.

The painting project reflects the **MDTA's** commitment to preserve and maintain the State's aging toll bridges, tunnels and highways. This project marks the start of the first full-scale painting of the westbound span since it opened in 1973.

Work on this first phase takes place just past the suspension span approaching the western shore. Phase two, cleaning and painting the suspension spans and towers, is anticipated to begin spring 2012. The estimated construction cost for phase two is \$15.7 million.

Additional preservation work is planned for the bridge in the **MDTA's** Capital Program, including two additional phases of westbound-span painting planned for 2014 and 2016, rewinding and dehumidification of the suspension cables for both spans planned for spring 2012 and repairs to the westbound bridge piers, planned to begin by 2012.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**June 22, 2011**

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks

410-537-1017

**LOCATION OF LOWER EASTERN SHORE
TOLL INCREASE PUBLIC HEARING CONFIRMED**

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announces the tenth public hearing on toll increases will be held on Thursday, July 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at

Stephen Decatur Middle School located at 9815 Seahawk Road in Berlin, MD.

This hearing will provide residents of the Lower Eastern Shore the opportunity to comment on the plan proposed on June 2. The public can arrive at any time during the 6 to 8 p.m. hearing. Citizens who want to speak can register to do so between 5:30 and 7:45 p.m. The formal presentation will begin at 6 p.m., followed by testimony.

Seven public hearings have been held to date, with two others scheduled within the next week. The 60-day public-comment period will continue through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, 2011. In addition to obtaining information about the proposed tolling plan and submitting comments for the official record at the hearings, the public can visit mdta.maryland.gov.

The plan to increase tolls is expected to generate approximately \$77 million in the first fiscal year for the self-supported agency that owns, operates and maintains Maryland's eight toll facilities. Every toll dollar collected goes toward the operation and maintenance of the MDTA's facilities. Toll dollars are not shared with the State's General Fund or Transportation Trust Fund or with local or other State government agencies. The MDTA combines toll revenue from all facilities to pay operating costs and the debt on bonds that are issued to fund major projects. Revenue "pooling" makes the MDTA financially strong with top bond ratings that reduce borrowing costs.

Revenues will help fund \$225 million in repairs just to the Bay Bridge (US 50/301) alone over the next six years. The recent re-decking and the initial phases to repaint the westbound span are costing \$172 million. The cost to construct the westbound span in 1973 was \$148 million.

Toll increases will be phased in, giving drivers and trucking partners the most time to plan as possible. The MDTA is focused on streamlining the process and eliminating antiquated toll-collection methods and technology, including AVI decals and ticket programs. As a benefit to E-ZPass Maryland customers, the proposal offers Standard Plan customers driving a passenger car, light truck or motorcycle a new 10% discount off the cash/base toll rate at all Maryland toll plazas.

The Bay Bridge toll rate for passenger vehicles is lower now than when the original span opened in 1952, when drivers of passenger cars paid \$2.80 round trip, plus \$.25 per passenger. The current Bay Bridge toll rate of \$2.50 has not changed since 1975.

The MDTA Board is expected to take final action at a public meeting later this summer. Meeting details and the approved tolling plan will be posted on mdta.maryland.gov.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks

410-537-1017

**MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ADDS
TENTH PUBLIC HEARING ON TOLL INCREASES
*Plans Underway for July 14 Hearing in Ocean City***

BALTIMORE, MD –Lower Eastern Shore with an opportunity to comment on the toll-increase plan proposed on June 2 by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), Senator James

(Jim) N. Mathias, Jr., and Delegate Norman H. Conway have requested a public hearing be held in Ocean City.

The Lower Shore public hearing will take place on Thursday, July 14, from 5:30 – 8 p.m. The MDTA is currently finalizing the location. Nine other public hearings on the toll proposal are being held in counties near MDTA toll facilities.

The 60-day public-comment period began June 2 and will continue through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, 2011. In addition to obtaining information about the proposed tolling plan and submitting comments for the official record at the hearings, the public can visit mdta.maryland.gov.

The plan to increase tolls is expected to generate approximately \$77 million in the first fiscal year for the self-supported agency that owns, operates and maintains Maryland's eight toll facilities. Every toll dollar collected goes toward the operation and maintenance of the MDTA's facilities. Toll dollars are not shared with the State's General Fund or Transportation Trust Fund or with local or other State government agencies. The MDTA combines toll revenue from all facilities to pay operating costs and the debt on bonds that are issued to fund major projects. Revenue "pooling" makes the MDTA financially strong with top bond ratings that reduce borrowing costs.

Revenues will help fund \$225 million in repairs just to the Bay Bridge (US 50/301) alone over the next six years. The recent re-decking and the initial phases to repaint the westbound span are costing \$172 million. The cost to construct the westbound span in 1973 was \$148 million.

As a benefit to E-ZPass Maryland customers, the proposal offers Standard Plan customers driving a passenger car, light truck or motorcycle a new 10% discount off the cash/base toll rate at all Maryland toll plazas.

The Bay Bridge toll rate for passenger vehicles is lower now than when the original span opened in 1952, when drivers of passenger cars paid \$2.80 round trip, plus \$.25 per passenger. If the Bay Bridge toll increased with inflation, it would cost \$23.30 for a round trip today. Toll rates for vehicles with three or more axles were last raised in 2009.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks or Kelly Melhem

410-537-1017

INCREASES FORMALLY PROPOSED FOR MARYLAND TOLL FACILITIES

*Plan calls for phased-in toll increases in 2011, 2012 and 2013
MDTA to hold nine public hearings in June; 60-day public comment period now open
through 5 p.m. Aug. 1*

BALTIMORE, MD – Faced with significant costs for the rehabilitation of aging infrastructure and the construction of additional highway capacity in the Baltimore and Washington regions, the Chairman and eight Members of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) today formally proposed a plan to increase tolls that is expected to generate approximately \$77 million in the first fiscal year for the self-supported agency that finances, owns, operates and maintains Maryland's eight toll facilities.

Among other changes, the proposal increases toll rates for all vehicles at Maryland tunnels and bridges and at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95) turnpike, including an increase in the reduced “commuter rate” for the first time in 26 years, and introduces Video Toll rates for all Maryland toll facilities.

“There are two key forces driving this proposal: paying for major construction work needed to keep these large, aging and expensive facilities both safe and operational and paying for additional highway capacity now under construction in the Baltimore and Washington regions,” said MDTA Chairman and Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. “The bottom line is that the MDTA’s tunnels, bridges and turnpikes are financially supported through tolls and not the State’s Transportation Trust Fund or General Fund. The additional revenue is needed to meet the current and future needs of these facilities. The plan allows Maryland to offer some of the most generous commuter discounts in the country and keeps overall toll rates comparable with those elsewhere in the region.”

Toll revenues fund safety, rehabilitation, customer-service and improvement projects Statewide, including \$132 million in repairs for the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40); \$121 million in work for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95); \$225 million in repairs to the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge (US 50/301); \$410 million in work for the three Baltimore Harbor crossings – the Fort McHenry (I-95, I-395) and Baltimore Harbor (I-895) tunnels and the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695); and \$21 million in repairs to the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301). In addition, the MDTA is constructing two major projects to address traffic congestion in Maryland. They include the Express Toll Lanes along I-95 in the Baltimore region and the Intercounty Connector in the Washington region.

“The MDTA Board has scaled back projects and reduced expenses to delay an increase in tolls as long as possible,” said Louise P. Hoblitzell, senior MDTA Board Member. “However, the time has come when additional revenue is required to keep pace with the cost of constructing and maintaining our facilities. There is never a good time to increase tolls, but we have a fiscal responsibility, let alone a legal obligation, to pay our bills. How to lessen the impact on our customers and families has been at the heart of Board discussions.”

It has been years, decades in some cases, since the MDTA raised many of its toll rates. Commuter toll rates were last raised in 1985 for Baltimore toll facilities and in 1983 for the Bay and Nice bridges. Toll rates for passenger vehicles were last raised in 2003 at the Baltimore toll facilities, the Kennedy Highway and the Hatem Bridge and in 2001 at the Nice Bridge. The Bay Bridge toll rate for passenger vehicles is lower now than when the original span opened in 1952, when drivers of passenger cars paid \$2.80 round trip, plus \$.25 per passenger. Toll rates for vehicles with three or more axles were last raised at all facilities in 2009.

The funds to finance, operate, preserve, maintain, improve and protect Maryland’s eight toll facilities come directly from the tolls that customers pay. The MDTA combines toll revenue from all facilities to pay operating costs and the debt on bonds that are issued to fund major projects. Revenue “pooling” makes the MDTA financially strong with top bond ratings that reduce borrowing costs.

“By phasing in these toll increases, we are not only giving our drivers and trucking partners the most time to plan as possible, but we are working to simplify our toll-collection process with uniform toll rates at our facilities,” said MDTA Acting Executive Secretary Randolph P. Brown, P.E. “Operationally, we’re also focused on streamlining the process and eliminating antiquated toll-collection methods and technology, including AVI decals and ticket programs.”

A 60-day public-comment period begins today and continues through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, 2011. The public can submit comments for the official record via a web form at www.mdta.gov.

www.mdt.maryland.gov or by writing to MDTA Toll Comments, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224. The MDTA Board also will hold nine public hearings throughout the State to receive public and private testimony on the proposal: June 9 (Montgomery County), June 13 (Baltimore City), June 14 (Prince George's County), June 15 (Queen Anne's County), June 16 (Cecil County), June 20 (Anne Arundel County), June 21 (Baltimore County), June 22 (Charles County) and June 27 (Harford County).

The proposal and hearing locations are detailed online at www.mdt.maryland.gov. Specifics of the proposal effective Oct. 1, 2011:

- Provide a 10% discount off the cash/base rate to E-ZPass Maryland customers driving two-axle vehicles (with a valid account and transponder).
- Adjust cash/base toll rates for passenger cars, light trucks and motorcycles (two-axle vehicles) from \$2 to \$3 at the Key Bridge, Harbor Tunnel and Fort McHenry Tunnel; from \$5 to \$6 at the Kennedy Highway and the Hatem Bridge; from \$2.50 to \$5 at the Bay Bridge; and from \$3 to \$5 at the Nice Bridge. Additional increases would take effect July 1, 2013.
- Adjust E-ZPass Maryland Discount Plan (commuter) rates from \$.40 to \$.90 at the Key Bridge, Harbor Tunnel and Fort McHenry Tunnel; from \$.80 to \$1.80 (round trip) at the Kennedy Highway and Hatem Bridge; from \$1 to \$1.50 (round trip) at the Bay Bridge; and from \$.60 to \$1.50 (round trip) at the Nice Bridge. These rates reflect a uniform 70% discount off the two-axle cash/base rates.
- Implement Video Toll rates for vehicles traveling through a toll plaza without a valid E-ZPass or cash payment. The video rate would replace the existing \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee and would be 25% higher than the proposed cash rates.
- Implement a Video Toll rate range for the ICC tolling plan. The video rate would replace the \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee added to the toll per trip when drivers use the ICC without a valid E-ZPass. The proposed ranges are 25% higher than the mileage rate ranges approved in 2009.
- Replace the \$10 Hatem Bridge AVI decal with an E-ZPass discount plan that provides unlimited trips for \$36 per year (E-ZPass monthly account fee and transponder cost would apply). Effective July 1, 2013, the plan would cost \$72 annually.
- Discontinue Hatem Bridge ticket programs.
- Discontinue the Shoppers Discount Plan at the Bay Bridge.

Specifics of the proposal effective Jan. 1, 2012:

- Adjust toll rates for vehicles with three or more axles and vehicles towing trailers, including a \$3-\$8 toll increase per trip depending on the number of axles at the Key Bridge, Harbor Tunnel and Fort McHenry Tunnel; a \$3-\$7 increase per trip at the Kennedy Highway and Hatem Bridge; and a \$6-\$20 increase per trip at the Bay and Nice bridges. Additional increases would take effect July 1, 2013.
- Reduce post-usage discounts for E-ZPass Maryland business accounts to 10%, 15% and 20% based on usage at eligible MDTA toll facilities.

The MDTA Board is expected to consider today's proposal for final action at a public meeting later this summer. Meeting details and the approved tolling plan will be posted on www.mdt.maryland.gov.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**May 24, 2011**

Contact: Cheryl Sparks or Teri Moss
410-537-1017

**SUMMER 2011 TRAVEL SEASON KICKS
OFF WITH MEMORIAL DAY**

*More Than 1.9 Million Motorists Anticipated
to Travel Maryland's Toll Facilities*

BALTIMORE, MD – As the unofficial start to summer approaches, the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) reminds the more than 1.9 million motorists anticipated to travel MDTA roadways this holiday - Don't Wing It. Plan Ahead; travel off-peak; and put safety first. This total represents a two-and-a-half percent increase in traffic counts compared to last year.



MDTA officials anticipate the following number of vehicles to travel its toll facilities between Friday, May 27, and Monday, May 30:

- William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge (US 50/301) – more than 363,000.
- John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95) – more than 466,000.
- Fort McHenry Tunnel (I-95, I-395) – more than 507,000.

An additional 598,000 vehicles are projected to travel the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel (I-895), the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40), the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (US 301) and the Intercounty Connector (ICC/MD 200) combined.

The MDTA offers the following travel tips for this holiday weekend and throughout the summer months:

- Travel off-peak and Explore the Shore! when heading to and from Ocean City. The best times to travel the Bay Bridge this weekend include:
 - Thursday – before 2 p.m.
 - Friday – before 10 a.m. and after 10 p.m.
 - Saturday – before 7 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
 - Sunday – before 11 a.m. and after 10 p.m.
 - Memorial Day Monday – before 11 a.m. and after 10 p.m.
- Don't Wing It. Plan Ahead!
 - Call 1-877-BAYSPAN (229-7726) for 24/7 Bay Bridge traffic conditions.
 - Visit www.baybridge.com to view live traffic cameras at the Bay Bridge and to sign up for traffic and email alerts.
 - Ease your travel with E-ZPass. Visit www.ezpassmd.com to enroll on-line and for a complete list of E-ZPass "On the Go" retail locations.
 - For statewide traffic information, visit www.traffic.md.gov and click on Local Traveler Information.

For your safety and the safety of other motorists and emergency personnel:

- Obey posted speed limits and overhead lane-control signals.
- Devote your full attention to driving – it is illegal to text and use hand-held cell phones while driving in Maryland.

- Keep a safe following distance to avoid rear-end collisions.
- Do not change lanes while traveling over bridges and through tunnels.
- Make sure your vehicle is "road ready"-- one disabled vehicle can cause extensive backups.
- If your vehicle becomes disabled, remain inside and call #77 for assistance.
- Move-over – When passing by an emergency situation, drivers should move to a lane away from the incident, if possible, for your safety and the safety of emergency personnel. If you are unable to move over, slow down.

The MDTA Police will remain vigilant and target aggressive and impaired drivers, seatbelt violators and criminal activity this holiday weekend. Citizens may report suspicious or unusual activity by calling 1-800-429-TIPS (8477). The TIPS hotline is staffed 24/7 by members of the Maryland Joint Terrorism Task Force, which includes MDTA Police.

The MDTA is committed to safe and convenient travel and will lift construction-related temporary lane closures from Friday, May 27, at 5 a.m. through Tuesday, May 31, at 9 a.m. MDTA's Vehicle Recovery Units will be available to assist motorists whose vehicles break down. Variable message signs will display traffic information including travel time, delays and detour routes.

Motorists intending to travel northbound I-95 into Delaware should be aware that the Delaware DOT continues construction at its Newark toll plaza (I-95). This may result in traffic queues on northbound I-95 stretching into Maryland. Visit www.deldot.gov or check an interactive traffic map at www.deldot.gov/traffic/map.ejs. MDTA remains in close coordination with DelDOT and Maryland CHART for traveler messages and updates.

In accordance with the State's budget-reduction plan, MDTA offices will be closed on Friday, May 27, including the E-ZPass Maryland Stop-in Centers and Customer Service Center. Visit www.ezpassmd.com or use the automated system at 1-888-321-6824 to sign up for E-ZPass, update account information or make payments via credit card. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, May 31.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2010

Contact: Teri Moss
410-537-1017

HATEM BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

Permanent-Lane Closures to be Lifted; Off-Peak, Temporary Lane-Closures for Final Work; Truck Restrictions, Free AVI Decal Renewals to End

BALTIMORE, MD -- The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announces the project to replace the 70-year-old Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) deck, maintain motorists' safety and help improve their travel is coming to an end.

The project, which began in 2008, involved replacing the bridge roadway (deck), substructure (concrete piers) and installing a new, permanent jersey barrier in the center of the bridge. Eastbound permanent single-lane closures are scheduled to be lifted on or about May 17, with westbound lifted on or about May 27.

Commercial vehicle restrictions that have been in effect between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. will be lifted on or about May 27, giving commercial vehicles with four or more axles access to the bridge 24-hours-a-day.

As of July 1, the yearly Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) Decal renewal fee that was waived during construction will be reinstated. Decals dated after June 30, 2011, will not be renewed for free. Once decals are removed and damaged, they cannot be reattached to vehicles' windows.

Construction consisted of four stages, with traffic one lane of traffic open in each direction of the bridge during each stage. Work on the final stage, which closed the center lanes of the bridge to traffic, consisted of installing a permanent barrier wall. Once installation is complete, temporary single-lane closures and detours may take place during off-peak hours in the upcoming weeks for crews to perform miscellaneous work.

The four-lane Hatem Bridge, which opened in August 1940, and cost \$5 million to build, crosses the Susquehanna River between Havre de Grace and Perryville in northeast Maryland and is a critical route for residents, visitors and businesses in Cecil and Harford counties.

Construction on the \$67 million project was performed by Joseph B. Faye Company of Pittsburgh. During the preservation project, motorists were kept informed of work progress and closures via a 24/7 hotline, email alerts, fact sheets the Hatem Bridge Project web site.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2011

CONTACT: Cheryl M. Sparks
410-537-1017

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY APPOINTS NEW MEMBER TO MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed A. Bradley Mims of Upper Marlboro to serve as the newest Member of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA).

Mr. Mims is a Partner with Federal Advocates, Inc., and is responsible for providing legislative, federal government and transportation-industry government affairs services for a variety of clients throughout the U.S. Mr. Mims joined the organization in 2010.

"The Maryland Transportation Authority is responsible for some of the State's most vital transportation projects – projects like the I-95 Express Toll LanesSM, the ICC and extensive work to preserve our tunnels, bridges and highways," said Governor O'Malley. "Mr. Mims' significant knowledge of the transportation industry will contribute greatly to the MDTA and to our investment in moving Maryland forward."

Previously, Mr. Mims served as Vice President - Aviation Market Leader for Parsons Brinckerhoff and as Senior Associate for Booz/Allen/Hamilton. He also held positions with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration, including Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, and Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs respectively.

"Mr. Mims will add to the depth, diversity and experience required of our Members to protect the MDTA's financial integrity and transportation mission," said MDTA Chairman and Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "His industry and federal-government background will help keep this agency on solid ground during this critical time for our State's

transportation network.”

Mr. Mims holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Allegheny College and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Airports Consultants Council and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials.

“I am honored to receive this appointment and look forward to serving as a governing Member of the agency responsible for so many of our State's major transportation investments,” said Mr. Mims.

Mr. Mims will begin serving his term upon being sworn in by the clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2011

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks
410-537-1017

ICC TRAVELERS -- STILL TIME TO GET E-ZPASS®
\$3 Service Charge Begins April 6 for Video Tolling
Special E-ZPass® Stop-in Center Hours Continue through Saturday

Gaithersburg, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) reminds motorists who travel on the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 to get E-ZPass® before full tolling operations and collection of service charges begins next Wednesday.

E-ZPass is the most convenient and time-saving way to travel the ICC. When traveling the ICC without a valid E-ZPass, a “Notice of Toll Due” is sent to the vehicle's registered owner for the cost of the toll. Effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, the notice will include a \$3 service charge per one-way trip in addition to the amount of the toll owed. Since toll collection began on Monday, March 7, the \$3 charge was waived to give motorists without E-ZPass the opportunity to use the ICC and to sign up for E-ZPass.

To open an E-ZPass account, customers can stop by E-ZPass full service Stop-in Centers in Gaithersburg and Beltsville, open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and, for added customer convenience, on Saturday, April 2, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Locations are as follows:

- MVA Gaithersburg Branch Office, 15 Metropolitan Grove Road.
- MVA Beltsville Branch Office, 11760 Baltimore Avenue, Station 43/44.

Additionally, E-ZPass “On the Go” ready-to-use transponders are available at all MVA offices in Montgomery County, including Gaithersburg, Walnut Hill Express, Glenmont Express and White Oak.

The cost to open an individual E-ZPass account is \$46 -- \$25 in pre-paid tolls and a \$21 transponder charge. Account payments may be made by cash, check, money-order or automatic credit-card replenishment. A \$1.50 service charge is applied monthly to all E-ZPass accounts for account-maintenance services.

The \$3 Notice of Toll Due charge helps recover administrative costs associated with video tolling. This policy is in effect at the MDTA's seven other toll facilities.

The ICC/MD 200 is Maryland's first all-electronic toll road. The first section opened to traffic early Feb. 23, and toll collection began March 7. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is managing ICC construction, and the MDTA helped finance, owns, operates and maintains the ICC. For more on ICC operations and toll rates, visit www.mdtamaryland.gov.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2011

CONTACT: Cheryl Sparks
410-537-1017

GET THERE FASTER WITH E-ZPASS AND THE ICC

*ICC Toll Collection Begins Monday, March 7;
Special Saturday E-ZPass Stop-in Center Hours at MVA Locations*

Gaithersburg, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) reminds motorists to get their E-ZPass® for convenient and time-saving travel on the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/ MD 200. Nearly 273,000 vehicles have traveled the first segment of the State's first all-electronic toll road since it opened in the early hours of Feb. 23. The ICC's "test-drive" period continues through this Sunday, March 6, and toll collection will begin at 12:01 a.m. Monday, March 7.

To sign up for E-ZPass, visit www.ezpassmd.com to enroll online. E-ZPass Stop-in Centers are located at local Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) offices in Gaithersburg and Beltsville. These full-service E-ZPass Stop-in Centers are open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays, excluding State holidays:

- MVA Gaithersburg Branch Office, 15 Metropolitan Grove Road.
- MVA Beltsville Branch Office, 11760 Baltimore Avenue, Station 43/44.

E-ZPass "On the Go" ready-to-use transponders are available at all MVA offices in Montgomery County, including Gaithersburg, Walnut Hill Express, Glenmont Express and White Oak.

In addition, for added customer convenience, the MDTA has added special Saturday hours at the E-ZPass Stop-in Centers at the Gaithersburg and Beltsville MVA offices. Between Saturday, March 5 and Saturday, April 2, the offices will be open on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The cost to open an individual E-ZPass account is \$46 -- \$25 in pre-paid tolls and a \$21 transponder charge. Account payments may be made by cash, check, money-order or automatic credit-card replenishment. A \$1.50 service charge is applied monthly to all E-ZPass accounts for account-maintenance services.

Pricing Period	Two-Axle Toll Rate
Peak Period Mon – Fri: 6 – 9am; 4 – 7pm (excluding federal holidays)	\$1.45
Off-Peak Period Mon – Fri: 5 – 6am; 9am - 4pm; 7 – 11pm Sat & Sun: 5am – 11pm	\$1.15
Overnight Period Daily 11pm – 5am	\$0.60

Since the ICC opened to traffic, a toll-free "test-drive" period has been in effect. Toll collection begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday, March 7. Traveling the ICC without a valid E-ZPass will result in a "Notice of Toll Due" being sent to the vehicle's registered owner for the cost of the toll. Effective April 6, the notice will include a \$3 service charge per one-way trip.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is managing ICC construction, and the MDTA helped finance, owns, operates and maintains the ICC. SHA traffic engineers will continue monitoring traffic on MD 200 and local roadways during the initial days of ICC toll collection. For more on ICC operations, visit www.mdt Maryland.gov.

Important ICC Dates:

- Monday, March 7, 12:01 a.m.: Toll collection begins.
- Monday, March 7, 12:01 a.m. – Tuesday, April 5, 12 midnight: Waiver of \$3 Notice of Toll Due service charge for drivers without E-ZPass.
- Tuesday, March 15: MTA begins fare collection for commuter bus service. Visit www.mtaiccbus.com.
- Wednesday, April 6, 12:01 a.m.: Full tolling operations/collection of service charges.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2011

CONTACT: Cheryl Sparks
410-537-1017

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**FEB. 22 ICC OPENING RESCHEDULED TO FEB. 23
DUE TO FORECASTED WEATHER SYSTEM ICC RIBBON CUTTING
TO BE HELD TODAY AT 11 A.M. AS PLANNED**

Gaithersburg, Md. -- As a result of forecasted precipitation overnight, the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 is now scheduled to open to traffic by 6 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, weather permitting. The expected wintery mix will prevent crews from completing final work that must be performed overnight to adjust traffic patterns on adjacent highways that is required for the opening of the ICC.

"For safety and logistical reasons, we need to push the opening of the ICC about 24 hours," said Acting Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Executive Secretary Harold M. Bartlett. "There is transition work that must take place overnight before we can open the ICC and that work cannot take place in wet or icy conditions. This is certainly an anticipated day and we appreciate motorists' understanding that we also need Mother Nature's cooperation in this."

The event to celebrate the completion of the first segment of the ICC will still be held today (Monday, February 21) at 11:00a.m., as scheduled.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Feb. 07, 2011**

Contact: Cheryl Sparks or Kelly Melhem
410-537-1017

FIRST SEGMENT OF ICC SCHEDULED TO OPEN FEB. 22
Test Drive the ICC at No Charge through March 6

Annapolis, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that the State will open the first seven-mile segment of Maryland's Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. The initial section of the State's first all-electronic toll road connects I-370 at Shady Grove and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in Rockville/Olney.

"With the cooperation of Mother Nature, we are working with our construction partners to have the first segment of the ICC opened to traffic at 6:00 a.m. on Feb. 22," said Governor O'Malley. "I am also pleased to announce that our citizens can 'test drive' the ICC at no charge between its opening on Feb. 22 through March 6. The test-drive period will give motorists an opportunity to become familiar with the highway's all-electronic tolling and variable pricing, while allowing us to test the tolling equipment under actual traffic conditions."

Citizens are expected to gain immediate benefits and time savings by using the first ICC segment. In fact, it is projected that trip times can be reduced by up to 70% when using the ICC between Shady Grove and Georgia Avenue compared to traveling congested local roads.

The ICC is a variably priced toll facility in order to manage congestion and deliver reliable travel times. Higher tolls are charged during peak-travel times (Monday – Friday, 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 7 p.m.) and reduced tolls are charged when traffic volumes are lower.

ICC tolls will be collected electronically at highway speeds using E-ZPass® technology. There will be no toll booths or cash toll collection on the ICC. Traveling the ICC without a valid E-ZPass account will result in a Notice of Toll Due being sent to the registered owner of the vehicle for the cost of the toll. Effective April 6, the notice will include a \$3 service charge per trip. This policy is in effect at the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) seven other toll facilities.

"In addition to the test-drive period, the \$3 Notice of Toll Due service charge will be waived for travelers who do not have E-ZPass during the first 30 days of toll collection on the ICC," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "Our goal is to give people time to try the road, get their E-ZPass and become accustomed to the ICC tolling system."

Beginning Monday, March 7, drivers of passenger vehicles and light trucks will pay \$1.45 during Peak hours (Mon – Fri, 6 - 9am; 4 - 7pm), \$1.15 during Off-peak times (Mon – Fri, 5 - 6am; 9am - 4pm; 7 - 11pm; Sat & Sun 5am – 11pm) and \$0.60 Overnight (11pm - 5am Daily) to travel the ICC's first 5.5-mile tolled segment. These toll rates are at the low end of the tolling ranges approved by the MDTA Board in December 2009.

To sign up for E-ZPass, visit <http://www.ezpassmd.com/> to enroll online or get a list of E-ZPass "On the Go" retail locations. E-ZPass Stop-in Centers are located at local Motor Vehicle Administration offices in Gaithersburg and Beltsville and at most Maryland toll facilities.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is managing ICC construction, and the MDTA helped finance and will own, operate and maintain the ICC. Construction of the ICC is a major job creator, employing more than 4,500 people and nearly 200 contractors and sub-contractors. For additional information, visit <http://www.mdt.maryland.gov>.

Dateline for the ICC Opening

- Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6:00 a.m.: ICC opens to traffic, weather permitting
 - Tuesday, Feb. 22 – Sunday, March 6 at 12 midnight: Test-drive period; no tolls or service charges collected
 - Monday, March 7, 12:01 a.m.: Toll collection begins
 - Monday, March 7, 12:01 a.m. – Tuesday, April 5, 12 midnight: Waiver of \$3 Notice of Toll Due service charge
 - Wednesday, April 6, 12:01 a.m.: Full tolling operations, including collection of service charges
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