



# Request for Public Comment

## *New Communications Tower at the Maryland Transportation Authority's Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge Toll Facility*

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is seeking public comment on a proposed communication tower within previously disturbed, existing MDTA right-of-way south of US 301 in Newburg, Charles County, Maryland at the MDTA's Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (Nice Bridge) Toll Facility Campus. The proposed tower is part of "Maryland FiRST," a new statewide 700 MHz radio system, which is part of a Statewide Interoperability Program that will enable emergency response officials to share information via voice and data signals on demand, in real time, when needed, and as authorized. This communication tower would be used by emergency response personnel, including law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and emergency medical service providers that are first to arrive at the scene of an emergency. Also included are secondary responders, consisting of transportation agencies, forestry departments, and others who help secure an emergency scene and assist in recovery efforts.

The proposed communications tower would consist of a 3-legged, 330-foot tall radio tower on the site of an existing helipad (348-foot tall with antennae). The legs will be approximately 30 feet apart at the base, in a triangular pattern. A 12-foot by 38-foot two-room shelter is also proposed to be constructed on the helipad. No cut or fill is expected for the proposed construction of the tower itself. New conduit and fiber optic cable will be routed to connect the radio tower with an existing fiber optic manhole and existing transformer. The total footprint of the proposed work area would cover approximately 1.5 acres; however, all of this area will not be disturbed since there is an existing access road and helipad on which the tower and shelter would be erected. Minimal ground disturbance is expected for the installation of conduit and fiber optic cable.

### PROJECT LOCATION



#### Questions?

Please contact Ms. Sushmita Mitra, MDTA Project Manager, at (410) 537-7873 or [smitra1@mdta.state.md.us](mailto:smitra1@mdta.state.md.us), or Ms. Jennifer Rohrer Kasperek, MDTA Environmental Manager, at (410) 363-0150 or [jrohrer1@mdta.state.md.us](mailto:jrohrer1@mdta.state.md.us).