

# PURPOSE AND NEED

## TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

### Congestion on the Nice Bridge

(7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

- Congestion occurs at the Nice Bridge in both Maryland and Virginia due to a reduction in travel lanes from 2 to 1 in each direction

	Existing	Projected 2030
<b>Hours of LOS E</b>		
Weekend	7	4
Weekday	2	10
<b>Hours of Los F</b>		
Weekend	0	7
Weekday	0	2

Level of Service (LOS) is used to measure how well traffic flows, with "A" being the best and "F" the worst.

- LOS E = Traffic volumes increase and the roadway is close to approaching capacity.
- LOS F = Traffic is stop and go. The traffic volumes exceed roadway capacity.

### Total Crashes and Most Frequent Type of Crash

(January 2003 to December 2005)

- The majority of crashes occurring along the approach roadways are rear-end crashes and can be attributed to congestion caused by the reduction in travel lanes from 2 to 1
- The majority of crashes experienced on the bridge are opposite direction crashes and are attributed to vehicles crossing the center line due to a lack of barrier between lanes

