

CHESAPEAKE BAY CROSSING STUDY

TIER 2 NEPA

WELCOME TO THE
SEPTEMBER 2022
OPEN HOUSES



Maryland
Transportation
Authority



Tier 2 Study is Underway

- The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) completed the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study: Tier 1 NEPA (Tier 1 Study) in April 2022, when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD).
- The FEIS/ROD identifies Corridor 7, the corridor containing the existing Bay Bridge, as the Selected Corridor Alternative.
- In June 2022, the MDTA launched the four- to five-year Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study: Tier 2 NEPA (Tier 2 Study). This Tier 2 Study will evaluate the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a range of alternative alignments and transportation issues from the Severn River Bridge in Anne Arundel County to the U.S. 50/U.S. 301 split in Queen Anne's County.
- The range of alternatives includes a No Build alternative and a range of build alternatives including various alignments, crossing types and modal and operational alternatives.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- NEPA requires any project receiving federal funding or approval to assess a project's potential impacts to the human environment before taking action.
- The MDTA and the FHWA, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), are following a two-tiered NEPA process for the Bay Crossing Study.
- The Tier 1 Study, completed in April 2022, identified Corridor 7 as the best corridor for locating a potential crossing to address congestion at the Bay Bridge. The Tier 1 Study reviewed a range of alternatives based on a variety of factors, such as cost, traffic performance, engineering and an inventory of environmental data.
- The current Tier 2 Study will analyze site-specific alignments within Corridor 7.

TIER 1 NEPA (COMPLETED STUDY)

- Established the project Purpose and Need.
- Evaluated a range of corridor alternatives across the Chesapeake Bay (and a No Build alternative).
- Included Public and Agency involvement and comment.
- Identified a Selected Corridor.

TIER 2 NEPA (CURRENT STUDY)

- Refine the Purpose and Need for a project-level analysis.
- Evaluate a No Build alternative and a range of build alternatives including various alignments, crossing types and modal and operational alternatives.
- Conduct engineering, traffic and environmental analyses.
- Include Public and Agency involvement throughout the Tier 2 Study.
- Identify a Selected Alternative within Corridor 7.
- Identify mitigation measures.

Historic Traffic at the Bay Bridge



1.1M Annual Crossings



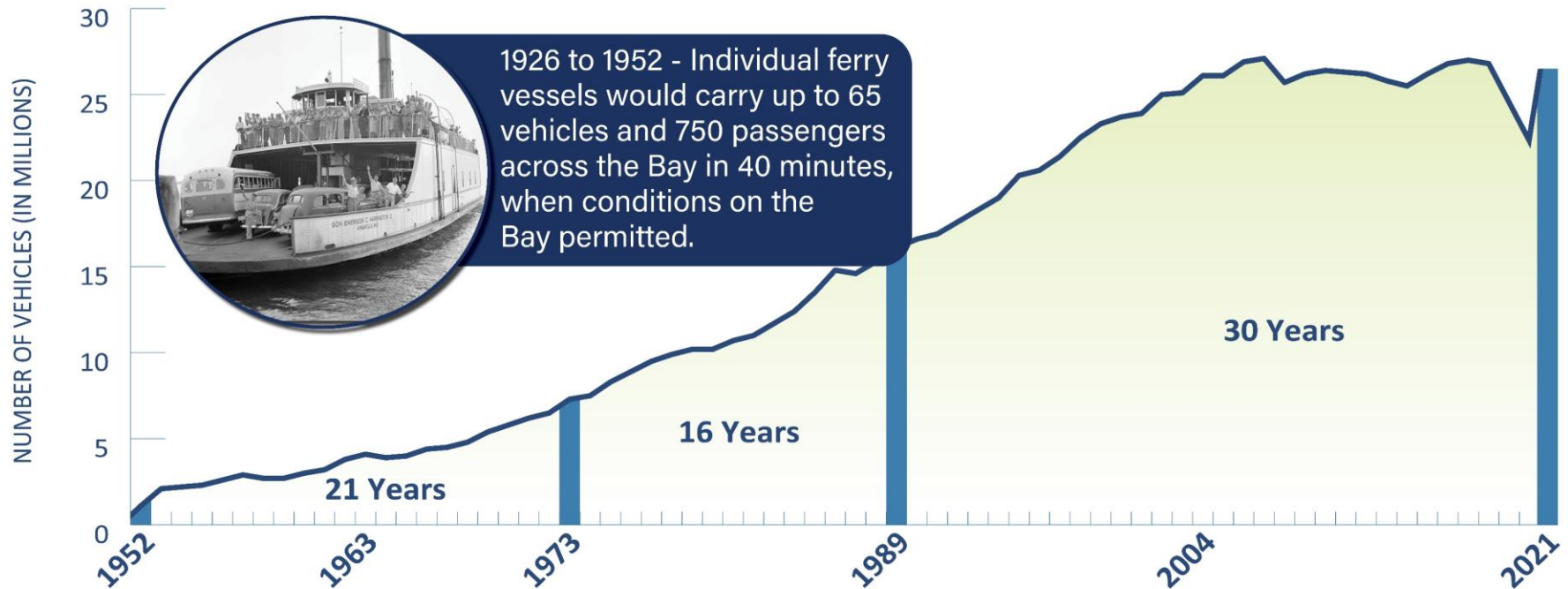
7.3M Annual Crossings



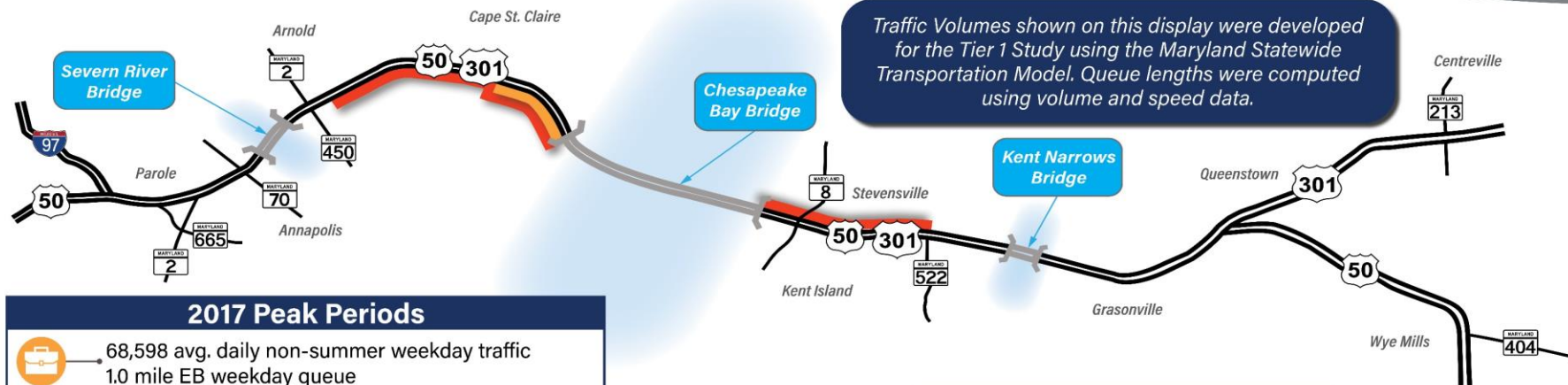
16.1M Annual Crossings



26.6M Annual Crossings



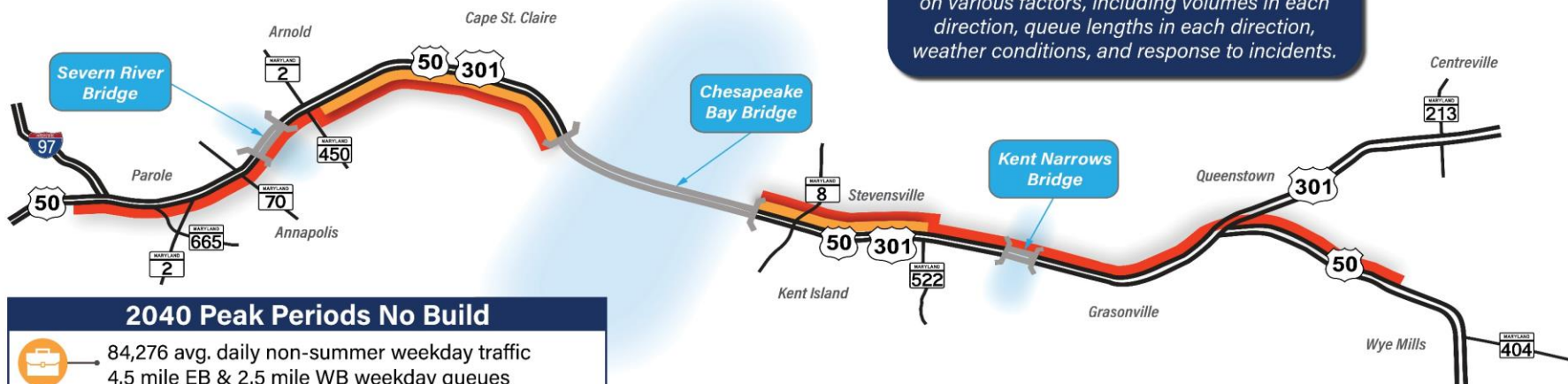
Typical and Forecasted Traffic Delays



2017 Peak Periods

- 68,598 avg. daily non-summer weekday traffic
1.0 mile EB weekday queue
- 118,579 avg. daily summer weekend traffic
4.0 mile EB & 2.5 mile WB summer weekend queues

MDTA continuously monitors traffic conditions on both the eastbound and westbound approaches to the Bay Bridge, adjusting the number of eastbound lanes between two and three based on various factors, including volumes in each direction, queue lengths in each direction, weather conditions, and response to incidents.

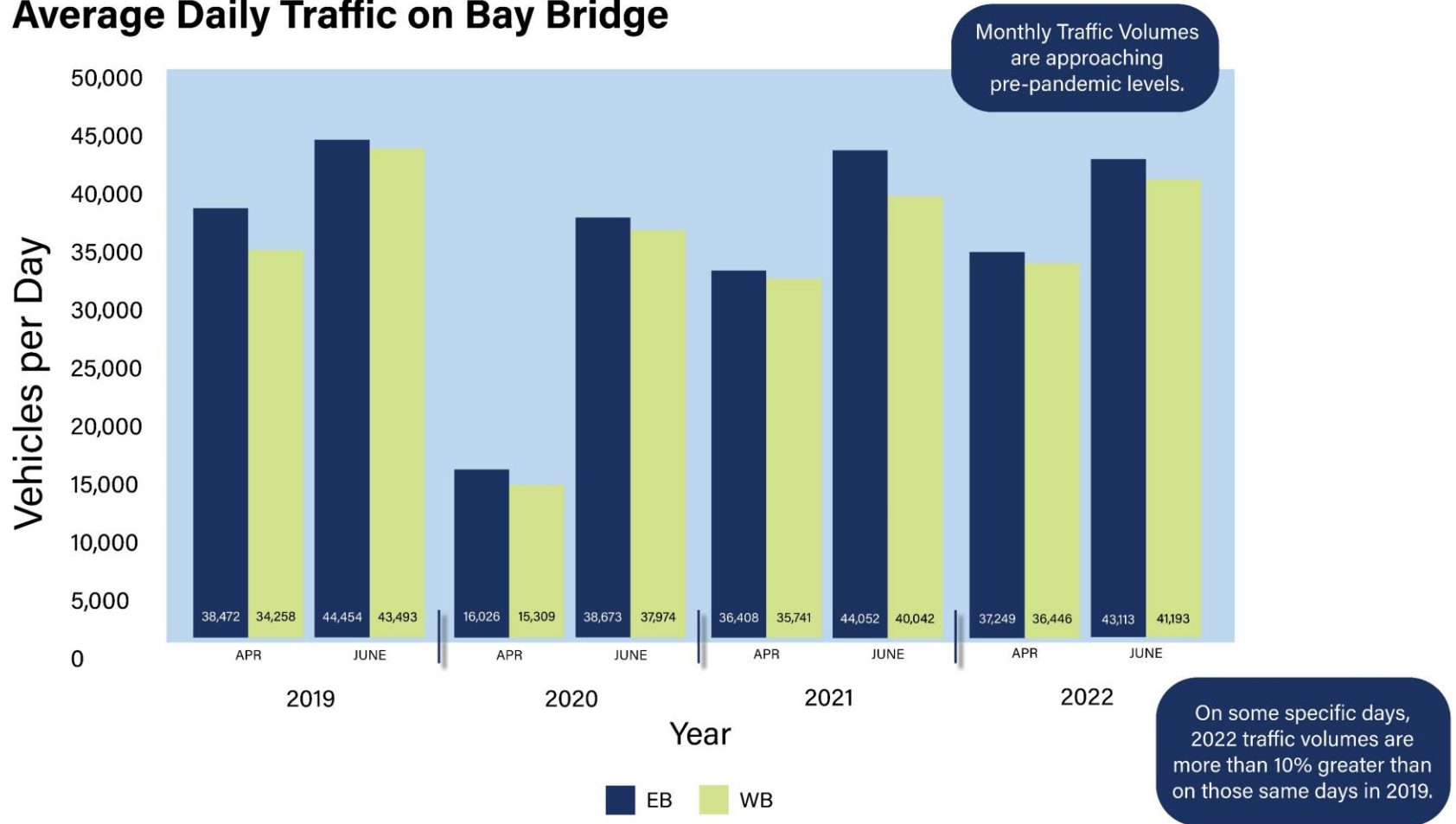


2040 Peak Periods No Build

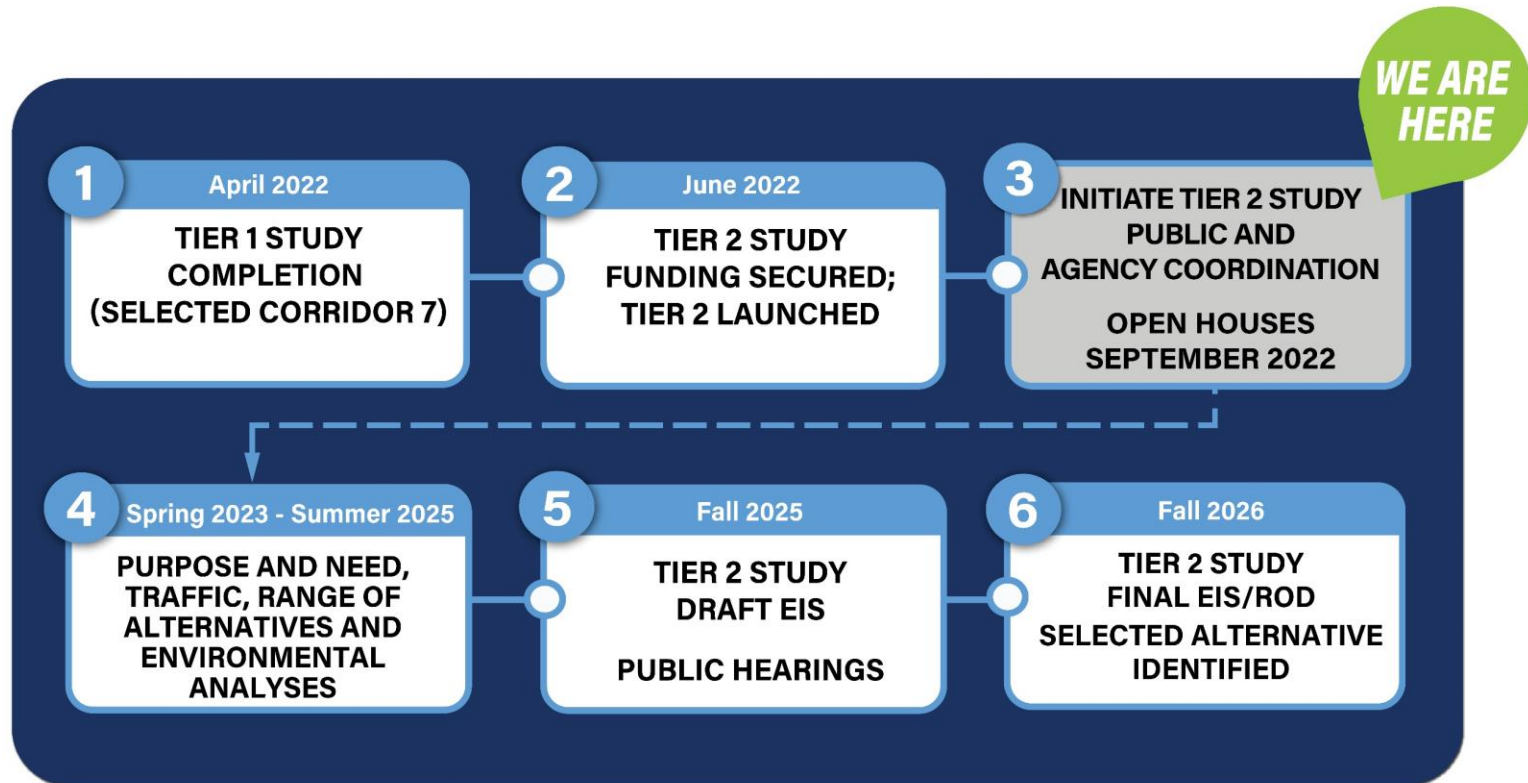
- 84,276 avg. daily non-summer weekday traffic
4.5 mile EB & 2.5 mile WB weekday queues
- 135,280 avg. daily summer weekend traffic
11.1 mile EB & 13.2 mile WB summer weekend queues

Bay Bridge Traffic and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Average Daily Traffic on Bay Bridge



Tier 2 Study Process*



- Should a Build Alternative be selected, subsequent phases will include engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

*Schedule is preliminary and subject to change.

Have Your Voice Heard!

Thank you for participating in this Open House. Comments received will help shape the Tier 2 Study alternatives and environmental impact assessment within Corridor 7.

How to comment:

- Please submit your comments for this Open House by Friday, October 14, 2022, via mail, email or study website.
- You can access the comment form online at baycrossingstudy.com or by scanning the QR Code.

Visit the Bay Crossing Study website to:

- Sign up for future project notifications,
- Participate in future public involvement opportunities,
- Receive Study updates and news, and
- View Open House boards.



Fill out a comment form:
baycrossingstudy.com



Email comments to:
info@baycrossingstudy.com



Send comments by mail to:
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2310 Broening Highway
Baltimore, MD 21224



Call:
667-203-5408

