



## Hatem Bridge Opens to Bicyclists Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) For Bicyclists & Motorists

Starting Friday, July 1, 2016, bicyclists will be allowed to cross the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) over the Susquehanna River between Havre de Grace in Harford County and Perryville in Cecil County during designated times.

Here is what you need to know.

**1. As a MOTORIST, what precautions should I take when bicyclists are on the Hatem Bridge?**

When warning lights are flashing, indicating that a bicyclist is on the bridge, drivers are encouraged to drive at a safe speed and stay in the left lane. Trucks over five tons must use the right lane but may use the left lane to safely pass bicycles.

***Share the Bridge!***

**2. What time of day can I ride my bike across the Hatem Bridge?**

- Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday – Sunday, dawn to dusk
- State Holidays, dawn to dusk



*Note: When bicycle access is restricted in the event of fog, wind, other inclement weather, high traffic volumes or major traffic incident, notification will be made via variable message signs and on the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) Twitter account at [twitter.com/TheMDTA](https://twitter.com/TheMDTA).*

**3. I want to ride my bike across the bridge during opening weekend. What are the best times to cross?**

Based on projected traffic volumes, we encourage bicyclists to cross the bridge during these recommended hours on opening weekend:

- Friday, July 1 – 9 a.m. to noon
- Saturday, July 2 – Dawn to 10 a.m., 4 p.m. to dusk
- Sunday, July 3 – Dawn to noon, 6 p.m. to dusk
- Monday, July 4 – Dawn to dusk

*Note: Bicycle access might be restricted if high traffic volumes or inclement weather (i.e. high winds) present a safety issue during the holiday period.*

**4. Do I have to pay a toll if riding my bike?**

Bicyclists traveling eastbound must pay the 2-axle toll rate in the far right toll lane (cash and *E-ZPass* accepted). The 2-axle cash rate at the Hatem Bridge is \$8. Credit cards are not accepted at the toll plaza.

**5. How old do I have to be to ride my bike across the bridge?**

Bicyclists must be 18 years of age or older OR have a valid driver's license.

**6. What should I do before crossing the bridge on my bike?**



Bicyclists should push the designated button prior to crossing the bridge to activate warning lights that alert drivers when a bicyclist is crossing. The lights will flash for 10-15 minutes, providing the bicyclist time to safely cross the bridge.

***Note: Even if the lights are already flashing when you arrive at the bridge, still push the button to ensure the full 10-15 minute cycle is reactivated.***

Be visible by wearing bright clothing in the daytime. Maintain your bicycle and make sure your reflectors and lights are in working condition. Wear a helmet and wear it properly!

**7. Are there designated bicycle lanes on the Hatem Bridge?**

The Hatem Bridge has two traffic lanes in each direction but does not have designated bike lanes. The bridge and existing lane configuration do not have enough room for bike lanes. Bicycles and motor vehicles must share the right lane.

**8. Which lane should I use when riding my bicycle?**

Bicyclists must ride in the direction of traffic and should position themselves in the center of the right lane.

Bicyclists are encouraged to ride single file and follow all other rules of the road.

**9. What if there is construction on the bridge?**

When a lane on the bridge is closed for maintenance or construction, motorists and bicyclists will share the open lane.

**10. Is there a place for me to stop on or near the bridge?**

Bicyclists are NOT permitted to stop while crossing the bridge or stop in the toll plaza lanes to wait for fellow cyclists to pay the toll. If you need to pull over, find a safe location farther down eastbound or westbound US 40 away from the bridge.



**11. What should I do if my bike breaks down?**

Stay where you are and dial #77 for assistance.

**12. Whom do I contact if I have a group of cyclists?**

Call the Hatem Bridge Toll Manager at 410-537-1106 to pre-pay tolls. Call the Hatem Bridge Duty Officer at 410-537-1196 to give the **MDTA** Police advance notice.

**13. Can I walk across the bridge or ride my skateboard, scooter or skates?**

Pedestrians, skateboards, scooters and skates are **NOT** permitted.

**14. When I get to the bridge, what if I decide that I do not want to cross on my bike?**

Cyclists not wanting to cross the bridge by bicycle may still use a taxi or local bus service (weekdays only) to cross the bridge. There is signing providing the taxi service information.

**15. Where can I go to find out more information about Maryland's bike laws?**

Visit the Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration website at [www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/program-bicycle-safety.htm](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/program-bicycle-safety.htm).