



**BBRAG**

**Bay Bridge Community Roads  
Multi-Stakeholder Workshop**

**Overview of Transportation Challenges, Impacts and Opportunities  
in Bay Bridge Adjacent Communities**

**December 4, 2019**

# Road Rules



- This discussion intended as a *starting point*, NOT an exhaustive list or set of proposals
- Entails Western + Eastern Shore *collaboration*, NOT us versus them
- Requires *multi-agency engagement* – The Bay Bridge is connected to a State Highway feeding on to State and County Roads, part of Federally-dependent system of infrastructure, policed by more than 4 law enforcement jurisdictions
- Engenders *forward-looking thinking* – Addressing issues of the current term, while pro-actively assessing and mitigating future population, business, and development expansion

# Common Impact Scenarios



- Weekends:
  - Day of week -- Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun
  - Month -- May/June/July/August/September/October
  - Off-Peak Holidays – Thanksgiving, Pre-Christmas, Presidents/MLK, Easter
- Weather Events: Wind/Rain/Snow
- Unintended Blockage: Accident, Breakdown, Abandonment
- Destination/Exit “closures” (i.e. Sandy Point, local road construction)
- Bay Bridge Repair/Construction Projects
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: In some scenarios, back-ups can and do occur *BOTH Westbound & Eastbound* at the same time

# Western Shore Scenarios



- Service thru-roads on both sides of 50 become ad-hoc highway/parking
- Impacts more than 41,000+ Residents/15,000+ Households on Broadneck Peninsula
  - Trapped within neighborhoods or in commute
- Late Weekday, Weekend and Incident-related service-road blockage getting to/from:
  - 12+ schools
  - 2 Post Offices
  - 3 Fire/emergency service centers
  - Businesses
  - ~20-25 Parks & Recreation programs
- Impaired safety: emergency service response & overflow of MD/VA/DC traffic into neighborhoods

# Current Tools



- Anne Arundel County law enforcement -- budget impact and limitations
- BaySpan Announcements traffic conditions -- “Stay on 50”
- Overhead Electronic Sign mile/time to Bay Bridge – “Stay on 50”
- Social media and mapping platform messaging
- Publicity at Ocean Resorts, rest stops, toll booths -- “Stay on 50”
- Contraflow (3 lanes) Eastbound & Westbound at appropriate times
  - Current issue with speed of contraflow transition
  - How prioritized if both sides are backed up?
  - Does not address multi-year projects for Bay Bridge Repair & Construction -- State & Federal intervention needed

# Western Shore Options: Bay Bridge Back-Up 2+ miles



## OPTION A

### Public Safety Interest

- MDTA or designee temporarily close ramp to Bridge located on Oceanic Dr (Sandy Point Overpass) for a period of up to 3 hours.
- Maintenance crew from MDTA sets up barriers “Temporarily Closed”.
- Overhead Messaging on 50 states that Bay Bridge ramp on Oceanic Dr. is closed, “Stay on 50”
- Other signs posted at end of College Parkway and St. Margarets Road and messaging added to Bay Span and Social Media

## OPTION B

### Peak Timing/Resident Access Windows

- Scheduled closure of ramp to Bridge on Oceanic Dr. on Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Permanent notices on all media/points of information
- See Crownsville proposal as an example

# Eastern Shore Scenarios



- Complete paralysis: No local thru-road on either side of 50/no berms; entire blockage -- Rt. 18 traffic light intersection @ Rt 8 and @ Mid-island overpass
- Access roads and single corridors are predominantly State-owned; conflict between State and County jurisdiction and policy
- Impacts more than 19,000+ Residents/8,500+ Households on Kent Island and ~14,000 Residents Grasonville/Queenstown to 50/301 split
  - Trapped within neighborhoods or in external commute; no school access
- Rush hour Weekdays, Thu/Fri/Weekend and Incident-related service-road blockage getting to/from:
  - 9 schools (Ex: Up to 50% of attendees miss event on Western Shore)
  - 3 Post Offices
  - 3 Fire/Emergency service centers
  - Businesses
  - ~20-25 Parks & Recreation and Sports programs (Teams miss events on Western Shore)
- Impaired safety: emergency service response & overflow of MD/VA/DC traffic into neighborhoods

# Current Tools



- Occasional Sunday off-ramp police presence North side of 50 (parked with lights)
- BaySpan Announcements traffic conditions -- “Stay on 50”
- Overhead Electronic Sign mile/time to Bay Bridge – “Stay on 50”
- Social media, mapping platform messaging (?), QAC TV
- Publicity at Ocean Resorts, rest stops, toll booths -- “Stay on 50”
- Contraflow (3 lanes) Eastbound & Westbound at appropriate times
  - Current issue with speed of contraflow transition
  - How prioritized if both sides are backed up?
  - Does not address multi-year projects for Bay Bridge Repair & Construction -- State & Federal intervention needed



# Eastern Shore Options: Bay Bridge Back-Up 2+ miles



## OPTION A

### Short Term

- Electronic signage installation on all exits North side of 50 to direct traffic to “Stay on 50”, warn of left turn restrictions at Rt. 8 & 18.
- Electronic warning sign installation on South side of 50 exits to Chester overpass.
- Police presence @ Rt. 8 & 18 directing left turn overflow through Business Park on weekends, and after school/evenings during incidents.
- Social media and Messaging added to BaySpan.
- Policy change discussion regarding restricted access on State roads.

## OPTION B

### Infrastructure – Near Term

- Priority funding for:
  - State performs traffic studies @ key intersections (with full engagement of BBRAG and key stakeholders)
  - State design and construction of bypass/overpass extending local roads across Kent Island on North and South side of 50.

# Looking Forward: Building Common Ground



## Worksheet: Next Steps Through the BBRAG Workshop Collaboration

ACTION	STAKEHOLDER	TIMING
Institutionalize Workshop, Plan Follow-Up	MDTA	Jan 2020
Short-Term Options and Unified Scenario Plans	MDOT/SHA, State & County Law Enforcement	Feb 2020 to pilot April 2020
Data (Pending development, traffic, \$ business impact, pop...)	Anne Arundel, QAC	Jan-Feb 2020
Policy analysis	District Delegates	
Post-NEPA Bay Bridge-adjacent infrastructure/scenarios	State and Federal	