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**BICYCLE SYSTEM INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL
26 AT NICE/MIDDLETON BRIDGE**

Learn more about bicycle lane sharing features and provide comments

BALTIMORE, MD (April 12, 2023) – On Wednesday, April 26, the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) will hold an informational open house regarding bicycle system features on the new Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial/Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge (US 301). Attendees may arrive any time between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. to view our display boards and speak with MDTA staff. There will be no formal presentation. The informational open house is taking place at the Nice/Middleton Bridge Automotive Shop, 13040 Crain Highway, Newburg MD 20664.

The purpose of the Nice/Middleton Bridge Bicycle System Informational Open House is to inform motorists and bicyclists about bicycle lane sharing features, as well as solicit comments about bicycle usage on the new Nice/Middleton Bridge, to include safe hours and days of operation.

The new Nice/Middleton Bridge includes more than \$2 million in features to accommodate lane sharing for bicyclists. The bicycle system includes warning signs, push-button activated flashing warning beacons, and bicycle-friendly modular expansion joints that were constructed instead of finger joints, which are typically used on MDTA bridges. The new bridge will accommodate bicyclists in the right lane in the northbound and southbound directions. Bicycles will be permitted to use the entirety of the lane and vehicular traffic is permitted to use both lanes. Before entering the bridge, bicyclists will push a button to activate the flashing warning beacons. Once activated, the flashing beacons will operate for 10-15 minutes to alert drivers of the presence of a bicyclist on the bridge.

The Maryland Transportation Authority welcomes all comments about bicycle usage on the new Nice/Middleton Bridge. The informational open house materials and comment form are available at nicemiddletonbridge.com. The comment period will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

The new Nice/Middleton Bridge opened to traffic on October 12, 2022 – three months ahead of schedule – with a wider, safer, and better bridge across the Potomac River between Charles County, MD, and King George County, VA. The new bridge doubles capacity, improves safety, and enhances emergency response and maintenance/inspection activities.

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Editor's Note: *If you choose to use an acronym for the Maryland Transportation Authority, please use **MDTA**. Thank you.*