



Maryland Transportation Authority Nice Bridge Quick Facts

(updated December 2012)

PROJECT NAME AND LIMITS	Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge Improvement Project: US 301 from Charles County, Maryland to King George County, Virginia.
PURPOSE AND NEED	The Nice Bridge opened to traffic in 1940. A major rehabilitation of the bridge deck took place in 1985. The Purpose and Need of the Nice Bridge Improvement Project is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a Potomac River crossing that is consistent with the US 301 approach roadways; • Provide sufficient capacity to carry US 301 traffic across the Potomac River in the design year 2030; • Improve traffic safety on the bridge and the approach roadways; and • Maintain two-way traffic along US 301 during wide-load crossings, incidents, poor weather conditions and during bridge maintenance and rehabilitation work.
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MDTA has completed a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) project planning study of proposed alternates to address the transportation needs at the Nice Bridge. • The proposed alternates, as shown in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and presented at the 2009 Public Hearings, focused on the existing crossing and included north and south alignments for a parallel two-lane span (retain or replace the existing bridge) and a four-lane span (take existing bridge out of service) with options for bicycle/pedestrian provisions. • MDTA identified the Preferred Alternate, Modified Alternate 7, which would construct a new four lane bridge north of the existing bridge and includes a bicycle/pedestrian path. • Environmental regulatory agencies have concurred with MDTA's Preferred Alternate. The Federal Highway Administration approved MDTA's Preferred Alternative by issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact on November 27, 2012.
NEXT STEPS	This project is now a candidate for MDTA capital improvement project funds. Currently, no funding is available for future project phases, including final design, right-of-way and construction.
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