

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2021

Mariner Alert: Temporary Channel Restrictions at Nice/Middleton Bridge from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Feb. 15, 2021 through Mar. 12, 2021

WHAT: The main navigation channel of the Potomac River at the Nice/Middleton Bridge will be temporarily restricted during the hours of 7am-9pm to enable construction of the foundations for new Nice/Middleton Bridge. Mariners are advised to use parallel routes. Large vessels in transit that require use of the Federal Navigation Channel during the work period described, must provide at least 24 hours advanced notice to either Mr. Mike Baker at (443) 286-1780 or Mr. Brent Hunt at (757) 544-3964.

With more than half of the river adjacent to the Maryland shore exceeding 10 feet in depth and approximately one-third exceeding 30 feet, a large majority of vessels will be able to safely transit outside the channel. [A scalable depth chart of the entire Potomac River is available online](#); the Nice/Middleton Bridge area is shown below. Mariners are advised to download river charts prior to departure due to spotty Internet service on the river.



All mariners are to operate at the minimum speed necessary to maintain safe course that produce no wake when transiting near the work platforms and barges.

WHEN: The temporary restrictions will be in effect from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., February 15 through March 12. Intermittent future closures will be implemented and publicized through the end of 2022.

WHY: **Toll Dollars at Work:** The work is part of the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) project to build a new US 301 bridge to replace the 80-year-old Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial/Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton Bridge over the Potomac River. The project is one of the State's largest transportation initiatives and will improve mobility, safety and economic opportunities for southern Maryland, northeastern Virginia and the region. MDTA kicked off major construction in July, and the new, wider, four-lane crossing will open to traffic by early 2023. For details, see the USCG Fifth District Local Notice to Mariners VA – MD – Potomac River – Lower Cedar Point to Mattawoman Creek – Bridge Construction posted at <https://mdta.maryland.gov/NiceMiddletonBridge/Construction#MarinerAlerts> and for further details, visit <https://mdta.maryland.gov/NiceMiddletonBridge/Home>.

Sign up at <https://mdta.maryland.gov/NiceMiddletonBridge/Contact> to receive mariner and traffic updates about the Nice/Middleton Bridge Project. For real-time updates on major traffic incidents, follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/TheMDTA. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheMDTA.

The MDTA thanks its customers for their patience and reminds them to *Stay Alert So No One Gets Hurt!*

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