

# Pile Driving at the New Nice/Middleton Bridge Project is Underway

**The New Nice/Middleton Bridge Project began pile driving operations in the Potomac River on July 17, 2020**, the first major bridge construction activity. Cranes will drive the piles starting on the Maryland shore. Pile driving operations are expected to be completed in Summer 2021.

Specialized machinery is used to drive the piles to an estimated depth of 190-feet into the river bottom to support the foundations of the new bridge. Pile driving will install piles weighing as much as 270,000 pounds (the equivalent of 67 average-weight cars).

The new, wider, and safer bridge is scheduled to be completed by early 2023. The project will replace the existing two-lane bridge with a new, four-lane span that will be aligned with the existing roadway approaches in Maryland and Virginia. The four, 12-foot-wide lanes with 2-foot shoulders will double capacity and improve safety, enhancing emergency response and maintenance/inspection activities. The MDTA is implementing a major infrastructure project that's affordable, invests in safety, and will improve our citizens' quality of life today – not years down the road.

Because the new bridge is being built adjacent to the existing bridge, traffic impacts are anticipated to be moderate. Boaters can expect only minor impacts and should sign up for mariner alerts for details of ongoing construction. To sign up for public and mariner alerts, please use this link [nicemiddletonbridge.com](https://www.nicemiddletonbridge.com).

The MDTA thanks the public for their patience as the new bridge is built.

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*Cranes with booms as long as 200 feet are driving piles into the river bottom.*



The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is replacing the existing Nice/Middleton Bridge with a new bridge that will:

- Double the vehicle capacity with four 12-foot-wide lanes, replacing the old bridge's two 11-foot-wide lanes
- Improve safety by installing a barrier-separated median between north- and southbound lanes, adding two-foot shoulders and other improvements that meet current safety standards
- Eliminate lane-shifting safety issues at toll booths by replacing them with all-electronic tolling
- Enable tall ships to pass beneath its 135-foot clearance

With construction underway (July 2020), the new bridge is scheduled to open by early 2023.