

For Immediate Release

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**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION REMINDS EASTERN SHORE
TRAVELERS TO ALLOW EXTRA TRAVEL TIME FROM
WESTBOUND US 50 IN QUEENSTOWN**

*Major Sunday Delays past Two Weekends; Motorists Urged to Travel Off-Peak or
Consider US 301 as Alternate Route*

(October 10, 2012) – In an effort to minimize traffic impacts, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) waited until after summer to close one of two lanes of the [westbound US 50 Bridge over US 301](#) in Queenstown for repairs. The closure allows crews to replace the bridge deck (portion that vehicles drive on) as part of a \$2.8 million reconstruction project.

Unfortunately, there were major traffic delays along westbound US 50 during the last two Sunday afternoons and evenings. Regional events including the NASCAR race in Dover two weekends ago and several events in the Salisbury and Ocean City areas last weekend contributed to more traffic.

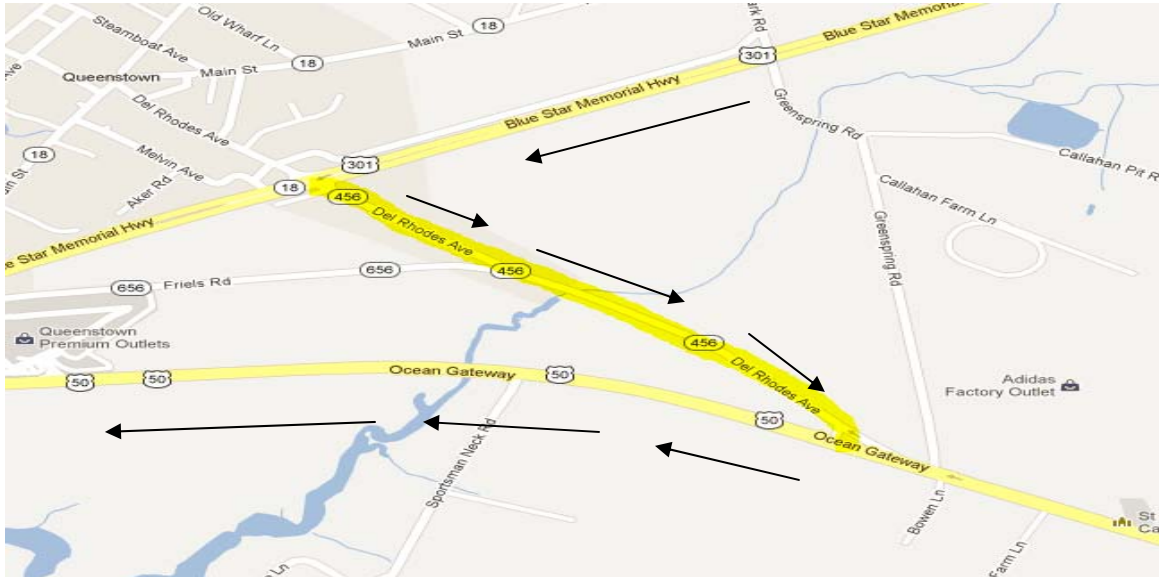
“This is a critical safety project that has to be completed before the heaviest shore-bound travel months in spring and summer. The best way to avoid traffic delays is to completely avoid westbound US 50 through Queenstown Sunday from noon until 10 p.m.” said SHA Administrator Melinda B. Peters. “Know before you go and call 511 or log onto www.MD511.org to check on traffic before you hit the road. There are incredible events every weekend on the Eastern Shore and with a little planning ahead, and motorists altering their travel times and routes, everyone can enjoy the events and avoid wasting time in traffic backups.”

In addition to the current left lane closure on westbound US 50 over US 301, crews periodically need to temporarily block north or southbound lanes on US 301 below the bridge project. These **overnight** closures and detours are critical in the demolition phase and installing new steel beams on the westbound US 50 overpass. It is important to keep in mind that during US 301 temporary overnight closures that traffic will be required to stay on US 50 through the construction zone, which has the left lane closed. The immediate schedule for US 301 closures and detours are as follows:

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Southbound US 301 closed and detoured overnights from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the following morning this week (**week of October 8**). Traffic will be directed to MD 456 (Del Rhodes Avenue) to westbound US 50 through the work zone.



Northbound US 301 closed and detoured overnights from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the following morning beginning the **week of October 14**. Traffic will be directed to eastbound US 50 to MD 213 to US 301.



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SHA will use detour signs, variable message signs and cones and barrels to guide motorists the detours and the work zone.

In an effort to minimize delays, SHA is asking anyone traveling to the Eastern Shore weekends this fall to consider delaying travel home until late Sunday night or Monday or to use MD 213 to US 301 to bypass westbound US 50 in Queenstown.

SHA is using overhead and portable message signs along both eastbound and westbound US 50 to alert motorists to the closure and expected delays. The bridge was constructed in 1950 and the upgrade project includes an entirely new deck, resurfacing, replacing steel and maintenance and cleaning the brick walls adjacent to the travel lanes.

One lane of westbound US 50 remains open during construction and drivers are being directed through the project area with temporary concrete barriers.

SHA awarded the contract to Corman Construction, Inc., of Annapolis Junction, Md. While SHA and its transportation partners work hard to maintain safe traffic mobility in work zones, each driver needs to actively modify his or her driving style to help prevent crashes. Stay alert and look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers. Slow down and don't follow too closely. *Safer driving. Safer work zones. For everyone!*

US 50 Westbound Bridge Over US 301 at Queenstown

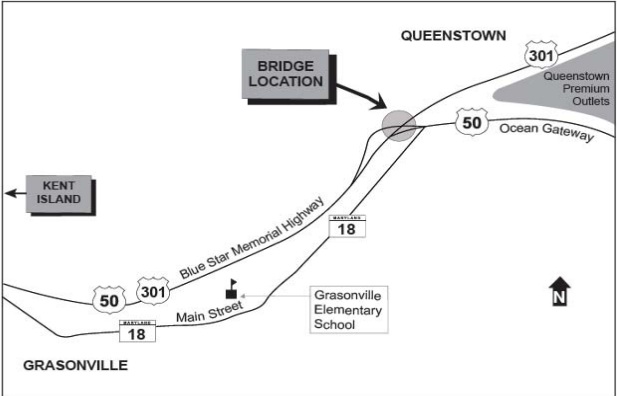
Single Lane Closures

Beginning September 24, 2012

Crews will remove and replace steel beams and the concrete deck on the 62 year old bridge.



What You Need To Know

- One lane traffic westbound will be maintained through the project area at all times. Traffic will be directed through the work zone with temporary concrete barriers.
- Completion of this project is anticipated by May 2013, weather permitting.
- Plan ahead and expect temporary traffic delays westbound on US 50 over the bridge crossing US 301.



For More Information

Visit <http://www.roads.maryland.gov>
SHA District 2: 1-800-637-9740
Contact Gee Williams, SHA District 2 Community Liaison
410-677-4073 or gwilliams10@sha.state.md.us



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Maryland now features FREE 511 traveler information! Call 511 or 1-855-GOMD511 or visit www.md511.org for current travel information. Sign up to personalize travel route information through MY511 on the website. Remember to use 511 safely – Maryland law prohibits hand-held mobile phone use and texting while driving. For motorists traveling west toward the Bay Bridge, try 511's news "Reach the Beach" feature by simply saying – "Reach the Beach." This service provides real-time travel data from points west and east between the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Eastern Shore Destinations or to the bridge.

Those who travel within the project area are encouraged to learn more about the project.

- Information about the project can be accessed on the web at: www.roads.maryland.gov projects & studies / SHA Projects Page; click on county map; construction; major projects; and then: 1) US 50 Ocean Gateway.

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