



News Release

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Robert L. Flanagan
Chairman

Susan M. Affleck Bauer, Esq.
Louise P. Hoblitzell
John B. Norris, Jr., P.E.
Carolyn Y. Peoples
Carol D. Rieg
Walter E. Woodford, Jr., P.E.

Trent M. Kittleman
Executive Secretary

Cheryl M. Sparks
Director, Division of
Communications

2310 Broening Highway
Suite 150
Baltimore MD 21224
410-537-1017
410-537-1022 (fax)
410-355-7024 (TTY)
1-866-713-1596

e-mail: mdta@mdtransportationauthority.com

www.mdtransportationauthority.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2006

Contact: Cheryl M. Sparks
410-537-1035

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BREAKS GROUND TO EXPAND I-95

Express Toll Lanes Will Offer a Choice to Motorists

BALTIMORE, MD - The Maryland Transportation Authority today broke ground on a project that will expand a 10-mile stretch of Interstate 95 and introduce Express Toll Lanes to ease congestion and improve safety on one of the most congested portions of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway.

Known during planning studies as JFK Section 100, the I-95 Express Toll Lanes project stretches from just south of the I-95/I-895 split in northeast Baltimore to just north of MD 43 in White Marsh. Two lanes will be added in each direction. Drivers will be able to choose to travel in one of four existing general-purpose lanes, as they do today, or pay a toll to travel one of two adjacent new Express Toll Lanes that will be managed to maintain relatively congestion-free conditions.

“Improving Maryland’s highway system to better support the way our citizens live and work has been one of Governor Ehrlich’s priorities from day one,” said Deputy Secretary of Transportation James F. Ports, Jr. “Above all, Express Toll Lanes will give drivers a choice and provide reliable travel times when they’re needed the most. These lanes will not only manage traffic for the long term, but will lay the groundwork for express bus service.”

Work on the Rossville Boulevard bridge over I-95 is the first in a series of smaller, breakout projects to allow for construction of the Express Toll Lanes. Plans call for the bridge to be widened from one to two lanes in each direction to better accommodate local traffic and to be lengthened from 148 to 374 feet to accommodate the new Express Toll Lanes below.

Other breakout projects include reconstruction of the Cowenton Avenue and Joppa Road overpasses and reconstruction of I-95 interchanges at Interstate 895, Interstate 695 and MD 43.

“The interchange improvements will improve safety by reducing last-minute lane changes, eliminating left exits and separating traffic exiting I-95 from traffic merging onto the highway,” said Trent M. Kittleman, the Authority’s Executive Secretary.

--MORE--



ADD ONE: I-95 EXPRESS TOLL LANES UNDERWAY

The Cowenton Avenue and Joppa Road bridge improvements are scheduled to begin early this spring. Both bridges will be widened from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction.

Construction is expected to last five years, with Express Toll Lanes open to traffic in 2011. The estimated \$830 million cost of the project will be funded by toll revenues collected by the Authority.

The I-95 Express Toll Lanes project will be the culmination of the first of four independent improvement projects identified for the 50-mile Kennedy Highway in the I-95 Master Plan released by the Authority in 2003.

The Authority is an independent State agency that finances, owns and operates the State's seven toll facilities, including the Kennedy Highway. The Authority's six members, appointed by the Governor with the consent of the State Senate, serve as the agency's policy-setting and governing body. Maryland Secretary of Transportation Robert L. Flanagan serves as Authority Chairman.

###

Note: If you choose to use an acronym, please refer to the agency as the MdTA. Thank you.