



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2006

CONTACT: Teri Moss
410-537-1017

**WORK TO REPLACE JOPPA ROAD AND
COWENTON AVENUE BRIDGES
OVER I-95 TO BEGIN**

Bridge Replacements Make Way for Express Toll Lanes on I-95

BALTIMORE, MD – An 18-month project to replace the bridges that carry Joppa Road and Cowenton Avenue traffic over Interstate 95 is scheduled to begin May 15. The Joppa/Cowenton Bridge Replacement Project is laying the groundwork for the Maryland Transportation Authority to bring Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) to I-95.

During construction, the Joppa Road bridge will be closed, and motorists will be directed to use the Cowenton Avenue bridge. The Joppa Road bridge will be demolished and reconstructed, while a new Cowenton Avenue bridge will be built next to the existing structure. Once both new bridges are open to traffic, the existing Cowenton Avenue bridge will be removed.

Work will be performed by the Joseph B. Fay Construction Company of Russellton, Penn., and will result in longer bridges to allow for the addition of ETLs along mainline I-95. The new Joppa and Cowenton bridges will be built 56 and 78 feet longer, respectively, and will include two traffic lanes, five-foot sidewalks for pedestrians and wider shoulders. Both new bridges are anticipated to be open in fall 2007.

The Authority is coordinating with Baltimore County on the Joppa/Cowenton bridge replacements, road closures and detour plans to ease the temporary impacts of construction on the surrounding communities. Citizens can obtain more information on traffic-management plans by calling Mr. Gradon Tobery at the I-95 ETL Project Office at 410-931-0808 or toll-free at 1-888-I-95-ETLS.

--more--

**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



ADD ONE: JOPPA/COWENTON BRIDGES

Known during planning studies as “JFK Section 100,” the I-95 ETLs Project spans 10 miles of I-95 from the I-95/I-895 split in northeast Baltimore to north of MD 43 in White Marsh. Scheduled for completion in 2010, the I-95 ETLs Project will result in a total of two new Express Toll Lanes and four general-purpose lanes in each direction. Designed to ease congestion and improve safety on the most congested portion of I-95 north of Baltimore City, the completed project will offer drivers the choice to travel in one of four general-purpose lanes, as they do now, or pay a toll to travel in one of two adjacent Express Toll Lanes that will be managed to maintain relatively congestion-free conditions.

Other work associated with the I-95 ETLs Project includes reconstruction of the I-95 interchanges with Interstate 895, Interstate 695 and MD 43, as well as the ongoing replacement of the Rossville Boulevard bridge over I-95 and other future bridge construction. Additional information about the I-95 ETLs Project can be found at www.I-95ExpressTollLanes.com.

The Maryland Transportation Authority is an independent State agency that finances, owns and operates Maryland’s seven toll facilities. The Authority’s six Members, appointed by the Governor with 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 Maryland Transportation Authority as MdTA. Thank you.

###