



News Release

I-95 Express Toll Lanes
Project Office
8019 Corporate Drive
Suite F
Baltimore MD 21236
410-931-0808
410-931-4110 (fax)

1-888-195-ETLS
(495-3857)

www.I-95ExpressTollLanes.com

e-mail: mdta@mdtransportationauthority.com

www.mdtransportationauthority.com



Maryland
Transportation
Authority



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Contact: Teri Moss or Kelly McCleary
410-537-1017

NEW JOPPA ROAD BRIDGE OPENS

*Bridge Replacement Marks First Milestone for
I-95 Express Toll LanesSM Project*

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) has completed the new Joppa Road bridge, which carries traffic over Interstate 95, approximately three months ahead of schedule.

“It is exciting that we’re moving this congestion-relief effort forward with such a well-done project,” said Authority Executive Secretary Ronald L. Freeland. “I commend the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Board of Education for their cooperation in helping to ease the temporary construction impacts to Chapel Hill Elementary and to the surrounding community.”

The new bridge is 56 feet longer to accommodate the addition of Express Toll Lanes (ETLsSM) along I-95 and includes two traffic lanes, five-foot sidewalks and wider shoulders for safe pedestrian access. Work began in May 2006 as part of a \$14.6-million contract with Joseph B. Fay Construction Company of Russellton, Penn., to reconstruct both the Joppa Road and Cowenton Avenue bridges. The new Cowenton Avenue bridge is being built next to the existing structure and is slated to be complete in fall 2007.

The I-95 ETLs project spans 10 miles from the I-95/I-895 interchange in northeast Baltimore to just north of MD 43 in White Marsh. Once complete, it will result in two new ETLs and four general-purpose lanes in each direction. Drivers will have the choice of using the general-purpose lanes at no cost or paying a toll to use the ETLs, which will be managed to maintain relatively congestion-free traffic flow.

Other work associated with the ETLs project includes reconstruction of the I-95 interchanges at Interstate 895, Interstate 695 and MD 43, as well as the ongoing replacement of the Rossville Boulevard bridge over I-95. Information on I-95 ETLs, live traffic images from the project area and the ETLs project video can be accessed at www.I-95ExpressTollLanes.com.

The Maryland Transportation Authority is an independent State agency that finances, owns and operates the State’s seven toll facilities. The Authority’s eight Members, appointed by the Governor with consent of the State Senate, serve as the agency’s policy-setting and governing body. Maryland’s Secretary of Transportation serves as Authority Chairman.

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