

For Immediate Release

Contact: SHA Office of Customer Relations and Information, (410) 545-0303

MAJOR TRAFFIC SHIFT PLANNED - US 301 AT MD 304

Southbound US 301 Traffic Will Use Shoulder for Two Months; J-Turn Temporarily Closed as Crews Move Stream Culvert Across US 301 near Centreville

(September 21, 2015) – Beginning Monday, September 28 the Maryland Department of Transportation’s State Highway Administration (SHA) will shift all US 301 (Blue Star Memorial Highway) southbound traffic onto the right shoulder between MD 305 (Hope Road) and MD 304 (Ruthsburg Road) in Queen Anne’s County. In conjunction with this shift, the US 301 J-turn north of MD 304 will be closed. Motorists traveling MD 304 west to US 301 south should continue north on US 301 and use the J-turn just beyond MD 305. This new traffic pattern will be in place for approximately two months as crews work to construct a box culvert system that will carry a stream under US 301. Motorists, particularly morning commuters and truckers, are urged to plan ahead and consider alternate routes and off-peak travel times if possible.

The current US 301 *north* configuration, with the left travel lane open and a stop condition for traffic coming from MD 304 west, will remain in place at this time. A shift to the right lane is expected sometime in October.

These temporary changes will allow crews to safely work in the US 301 median and adjacent lanes. Construction of the box culvert system is a key environmental step in the overall project to create a grade-separated interchange with roundabouts at US 301 and MD 304. With a 24/7 pumping operation SHA is maintaining stream flow throughout construction. This helps ensure downstream wildlife across US 301 has an adequate water supply, and the stream doesn’t flood wooded habitat behind the construction area during heavy rains.

SHA awarded a \$30 million construction contract to David A. Bramble of Chestertown. An average of 20,000 vehicles travel this portion of US 301 each day.

While SHA and its transportation partners work hard to keep traffic safely moving in work zones, please partner with us because work zone safety is everyone’s business – slow down and stay alert. Safer driving. Safer work zones. For everyone.

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The floor of a large box culvert system takes shape along the northbound lanes of US 301. This structure will eventually carry a stream from the wooded area under US 301. A series of similar culverts is being constructed along southbound US 301 to provide stream continuity through the new interchange and roundabout areas.

US 301 at MD 304

New southbound US 301 temporary traffic pattern as of September 28, continuing for approximately two months

