



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE SECTION OF MD 222 NORTH OF PORT DEPOSIT THIS JULY

Eight Week Roadway Closure Takes Effect Monday, July 9; Port Deposit's Main Street to Remain Open for the Captain John Smith Festival on Saturday, July 21

(June 29, 2007) – On Monday, July 9, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) will temporarily close a section of MD 222 (Susquehanna River Road) between Canal Road and Maryland Avenue north of Port Deposit, Cecil County. Weather permitting, work is scheduled for approximately eight weeks, with the roadway reopening in late August. This work is part of SHA's system preservation plan to improve bridge structures across the State. Motorists wanting to access the town of Port Deposit via Interstate 95 will be able to do so during the closure.

Upon completion, the project will reduce flooding along this portion of MD 222. During the closure, SHA crews will replace the existing culverts with two new pre-cast reinforced concrete box culverts, located between Canal Road and Maryland Avenue, which is north of the Port Deposit town limits. Additional work includes the installation of new guardrail and barrier end treatments. Crews will work Sunday through Saturday between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. MD 222 will also be open from US 1 and north of the project area in the vicinity of the Union Hotel and Hopkin's Crab House.

During construction, SHA is committed to working with Cecil County and the Town of Port Deposit, especially as they prepare for the upcoming Captain John Smith Celebration, marking the 400th Anniversary of his historic voyage to Cecil County. The day-long festival will take place on Saturday, July 21 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Marina Park and various locations along Main Street. Festival attendees will be able to access the festival area if approaching from the southern end of MD 222. Motorists will follow a well-marked signed detour.

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Motorists will be directed around the construction site using the following detours, which are also used during flooding along MD 222:

- To access MD 222 north of Port Deposit, motorists will be directed from I-95 to northbound MD 222, to northbound MD 275 (Perrylawn Drive), to northbound MD 276 (Jacob Tome Memorial Highway) to southbound US 1 (Conowingo Road) to southbound MD 222.
- To access points south from the Conowingo area of Cecil County, motorists will be directed to northbound US 1, to southbound MD 276, to southbound MD 275 and then to MD 222.

SHA's project contractor is providing four additional portable variable message signs (VMS) for use along the detour route at the following locations to guide motorists during construction:

- Interstate 95 (Exit 100) at MD 272 Park-and-Ride lot;
- Southbound MD 276 at MD 275;
- Southbound US 1 just south of MD 222;
- Northbound US 1 at Shuresville Road in Harford County.

SHA's Elkton Maintenance Facility is providing two portable variable message signs, which will detail information on event parking and shuttle service. The shuttle service pick-up location is the Water Witch Volunteer Fire Company house along MD 276 and will be available between 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information on the festival, log onto www.johnsmith400.org or www.portdepositcc.org.

Again, it is important to note MD 222 through the town of Port Deposit will be accessible from I-95 for the festival and during bridge work. MD 222 carries approximately 3,100 vehicles each day. Crews are scheduled to work between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Customers with questions about this project and others along State-numbered routes in Cecil County may call the SHA District 2 Office in Chestertown at 410-810-3210 or toll-free at 1-800-637-9740. SHA thanks motorists and residents for their patience and cooperation during construction and reminds them to use caution and drive at the appropriate speed.

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