

## PUBLIC INPUT

Input from the public is a valuable resource for the project team. Public meetings and the project website give you the opportunity to get involved and help our project team better understand the needs of the surrounding community. Please visit [www.mdtransportationauthority.com](http://www.mdtransportationauthority.com). Click on "Capital Projects" and "Nice Bridge Improvement Project" for more information and to provide comments electronically.



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## FOCUS GROUP EXPLORES IMPACTS OF NICE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

MDTA asked a group of community representatives from a wide variety of interests to serve as members of a focus group for the Nice Bridge Improvement Project. The focus group provides a sampling of public opinion that will help shape the project and assist MDTA by providing valuable local perspective. The 16-member focus group met for the third time on January 24, 2008 to discuss the project and learn more about the proposed alternates. At the meeting, Project Manager Glen Smith and the team shared comments from workshop attendees, provided project updates and answered questions about the Alternates Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. The next focus group meeting will be held in Virginia prior to the fall 2008 Public Hearings.

**SECTION 106** of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that MDTA seek and consider comments from the public regarding the effects of the Nice Bridge Improvement Project on historic standing structures and archeological resources. The views of the public are essential to informed decision making in the Section 106 process. MDTA will coordinate with the public in a manner that reflects the nature and complexity of the project and its effects on historic properties. If you or your group would like to share your comments, please email MDTA or contact the Project Manager (see top of page for contact information).

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you received this newsletter, then chances are this project will affect where you live, where you work, or how you commute. It is important that you share your concerns, questions and ideas with us. Thank you!



## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS DREW A CROWD

More than 130 citizens attended the Nice Bridge Improvement Project Alternates Public Workshops held on May 31, 2007 at the Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School in Newburg, Md and on June 7, 2007 at the Potomac Elementary School in Dahlgren, Va. At the workshops, the project team presented fourteen preliminary alternates for improvements to the Nice Bridge. Attendees also viewed displays of the project schedule, public involvement activities, ongoing coordination with federal, state and local agencies, and maps depicting the natural environmental features of the surrounding area.

Project team members answered questions and discussed the information presented with workshop attendees.



Attendees also shared their thoughts, concerns and questions by submitting comment cards to the project team. The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) thanks all citizens who took the time to participate and made these workshops a success.

## WHY IS A PLANNING STUDY FOR THE NICE BRIDGE BEING CONDUCTED?

The purpose of the Nice Bridge Improvement Project is to provide roadway elements that are consistent with US 301 as it approaches the bridge. This includes evaluating a Potomac River crossing with two 12-foot lanes in each direction, a median separation and adequate shoulders.

Project needs include:

- Relieving congestion;
- Improving safety;
- Providing for forecasted future travel demand; and,
- Providing the ability to maintain two-way traffic during wide load crossings and when performing maintenance and rehabilitation work.



