



CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
 Department of Public Works
 Engineering and Construction Division
 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2400A, Elkton, MD 21921

**Replacement of Mechanics Valley Road Bridge No. CE0042
 over CSX Railroad**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose and scope of the project?

The existing bridge is currently in fair condition, however the bridge will require substantial rehabilitation in the near future to the bridge foundations and supporting roadway. In addition, the exiting bridge is functionally obsolete meaning the bridge road width is not in accordance with current standards. Construction of a new bridge will provide a new wider and modern bridge, and improved roadway approaches including improved intersection sight distance for the intersection of Mechanics Valley Road and Bouchelle Road.

2. What is the project schedule?

Begin Alignment and Alternative Analysis	January 2016
Public Informational Meeting	December 2016
Alternative Alignment Selection	January 2017
Begin Preliminary Engineering/Utility Coordination	March 2017
Begin Semi-Final Engineering	November 2017
Begin Property Evaluation and Acquisitions	February 2018
Begin Final Engineering	February 2018
Begin Utility Relocations	July 2018
Project Advertisement for Bidding	October 2018
Project Award and Contractor Notice to Proceed	January 2019
Begin Onsite Construction	February 2019
Construction Complete	December 2019

All dates are tentative and subject to change based Engineering and Environmental approvals, and Cecil County and Federal project funding approvals.

3. How will the real estate process go?

It is estimated that we will begin right of way evaluations, coordination, and development of plats and appraisals in February 2018. Property owner contact is estimated in March 2018. Please refer to Real Estate Flyer for additional information.

4. Why are you taking so much right of way/property?

Five factors generally affect the amount of property acquired; alternative selected, wider road and shoulder, storm water ditches, new utility easements, and additional clearance over the railroad must be provided which raises the entire roadway leading up to and at the crossing. The County will only acquire the land it needs to build the project.



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5. *Will there be impact to sewer or water utilities?*

No sewer or water utilities are included in this project.

6. *Will there be impact to overhead utilities?*

The project corridor has both power and communication utilities overhead supported by utility poles and coordination to identify underground utilities have not begun at this time. The scope of utilities impacted will depend on the alternative selected with Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 being the most impactful and Alternative 3 being less impactful. However, it is assumed that utility relocations will be required for all alternatives.

7. *What will the bridge look like after construction is complete?*

The County has replaced several bridges over CSX railroad over the past ten years and the proposed bridge will more than likely resemble those replaced at the following locations.

- Baron Road over CSX - Located north of the Town of North East off of MD 272 through Nazarene Camp Road.
- Nottingham Road over CSX - Located a few miles east of Mechanics Valley Road project site and between the intersection of Union Church and Marley Road.
- Appleton Road over CSX - Located north of Elkton and between Barksdale Road and Fletchwood Road.

8. *What kind of delays and detours can be expected?*

Each alternative will require a temporary road detour to complete construction of the bridge and approaches. It is anticipated the construction duration will be between 9 and 12 months, with a temporary roadway detour that could be as long as 8 months. For Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, the new bridge can be constructed while the existing bridge remains in service, which will decrease the overall duration of the closure

9. *How long will the project be in construction?*

At this time the project has not been funded for construction, but it is anticipated to start in February 2019 and last through the end of 2019. The County will try to maximize construction activities through longer work days and weekend work during spring, summer, and fall when temperatures and conditions are more favorable for construction.



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10. Will I have access to my property during construction?

Yes, access will be provided throughout construction. At times traffic may be limited to local traffic only. We will attempt to minimize the day-to-day impacts on the property owners. However, some delays and impacts will be felt by the property owner. The County and Contractor will directly coordinate with property owners when work will block access to a home, such as reconstruction of driveway pipes and entrances, paving operations, and other construction operations.

11. Lums Road is in less than satisfactory condition and does not meet current roadway design standards. Will Lums Road be improved?

Lums Road improvements is currently under design and is approximately 40% complete. The project will reconstruct and improve the road alignment to accommodate all legal loads from approximately 250 feet east of the bridge over Northeast Creek to the intersection of Lums Road and Bouchelle Road. The project has not been funded for construction, but funds for construction will be requested this winter as a part of the Capital Improvement Program annual request for funding. If construction funding is approved it is anticipated construction will begin in the Spring of 2018 and be completed by the end of 2018.

Presently the detour for the construction of Mechanics Valley Road Bridge No. CE0042 over CSX does not utilize Lums Road as a potential detour route since funding for construction has not been appropriated. Should funding become available and construction completed prior to start of the bridge project, Lums Road may be a viable detour route since the over length will be shorter.