

GOVERNOR HARRY NICE BRIDGE

Emergency Traffic Detour Plan: Residents' Guide

Bridge Closures



- The Governor Harry Nice Bridge is managed by the Maryland Transportation Authority and the MdTA Police Department.
- Temporary bridge closures, usually the result of motor vehicle crashes that can take hours to clear, result in significant traffic delays in the southbound lanes of Route 301 south of La Plata.
- These traffic delays prevent Charles County residents who live in the Cobb Neck/Route 257 corridor or in Clifton on the Potomac from returning to their homes, sometimes for several hours.
- To prevent these residents from being delayed while also allowing police to retain control of bridge traffic, the Charles County Sheriff's Office will activate the following detour plan when the bridge is closed.

Local Traffic Detour: Plan A



- Plan A will be implemented alone if traffic from the Nice Bridge is not backed up beyond seven miles to Popes Creek Road.
- Local traffic will be detoured from southbound Route 301 onto Popes Creek Road. At the end of Popes Creek Road, local traffic will make a right onto Edge Hill Road and continue to the intersection of Route 301 in Newburg.
- At Edge Hill Road/Route 301 intersection, traffic going to the Cobb Neck/Route 257 corridor will cross Route 301 at Route 257/Edge Hill Road. Traffic going to Clifton will travel the shoulder of southbound Route 301.
- A deputy will direct traffic at Route 301 and Route 257 and another deputy will direct traffic at Route 301 and Clifton Drive.

Local Traffic Detour: Plan A

- Permanent detour signs have been installed four locations. When the detour is not in effect, the signs fold or turn away from traffic. Local motorists will know the detour is in effect when they see the detour sign at Popes Creek Road. The signs will only be visible when the detour is in effect.
- A deputy will unfold or turn the signs when the detour is active and return them to their original position when the detour ends.
- The detour plan is designed to prevent non-local traffic from taking advantage of the detour. Non-local motorists who use the detour will be prohibited from traveling southbound beyond Cliffton Drive. They will be directed by a deputy to turn northbound on Route 301 and return to the end of the backup.
- Deputies will be posted at both the Route 301/Route 257 and Route 301/Cliffton Drive intersections to enforce the detour.

Important Notice to Residents



- To take advantage of this detour, local resident motorists must:
 - Be aware of the sign locations.
 - Know that when the signs are unveiled, motorists traveling to Route 257 or Clifton Drive must take the detour to prevent being caught in the traffic delays.

- The first two detour signs are located at Route 301 and Popes Creek Road. The unveiling of these signs will alert motorists the detour is in effect.

Route 301 and Popes Creek Road

At left, the sign is folded and traffic is proceeding normally. The sign at right is unfolded, indicating the detour operation has been activated.



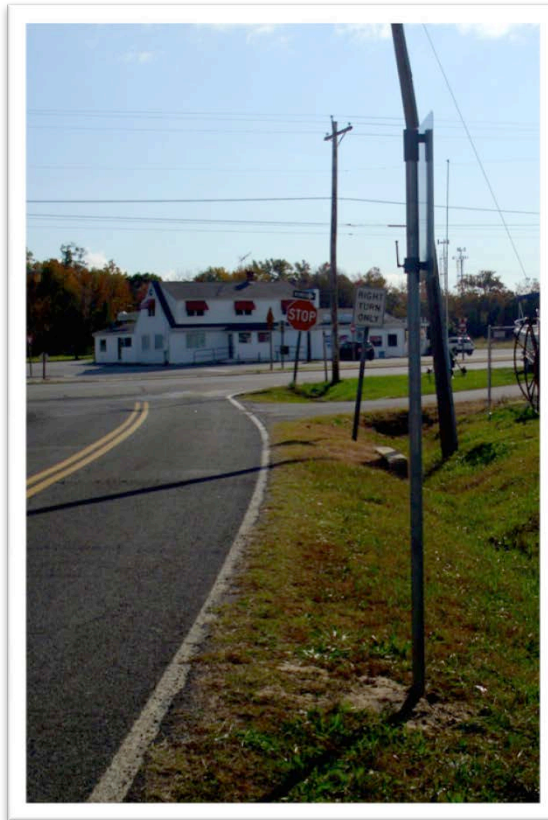
Popes Creek Road & Edge Hill Road

The signs on the right have been turned around to reveal the detour route.



Route 301 and Edge Hill Road

The sign at Route 301 and Edge Hill Road also turns to reveal the detour. Additionally, a deputy will be stationed here. Please note the concrete median dividing Route 301 is recessed in front of Route 257, which enables vehicles to cross it. Cliffton residents will use the shoulder of the roadway to travel south to Cliffton Drive.



Cliffton Exit at Route 301

A “No Right Turn” sign will be unfolded to prevent motorists leaving Cliffton from turning right. This requires any non-local motorists who took the detour to return to the end of the backup.



Local Traffic Detour: Plan B

- If extreme conditions delay traffic further north than Popes Creek Road, a more extensive plan will be implemented to complement Plan A:
 - Route 6 to Penns Hill Road
 - Route 234 to northbound Route 301
 - Northbound Route 301 to Popes Creek Road
 - Then follow Plan A

- No signs have been installed at these locations. The Charles County Sheriff's Office and/or Office of Charles County Commissioners will advise citizens of the need to use this detour route via the news media, the Charles County Citizen Notification System, social media, and on www.ccsso.us and www.charlescounty.org.

Questions and Comments



- Please direct any questions or comments regarding the Harry Nice Bridge Closure Detour Plan to the Charles County Sheriff's Office by e-mailing info@ccso.us or calling 301-609-6400.