



BAY BRIDGE PROTECTION PUBLIC NOTICE

April 1, 2026

Re: **MDTA – Bay Bridge Protection Design-Build Project**

Tidal Authorization Number: 25-WL-1047

Water Quality Certification Number: 26-WQC-0001

Tracking Number: 202561639

Event	Schedule
Public Notice Begins	April 1, 2026
Public Hearing – Anne Arundel County	April 20, 2026
Public Hearing – Queen Anne’s County	April 23, 2026
Comment Deadline	April 30, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MDTA) has submitted the *Joint Federal/State Application for the alteration of any Floodplain Waterway or Tidal Wetland in Maryland*, with associated plans and forms, to obtain authorization for construction of pier protections at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. In addition, a Water Quality Certification (WQC) request was submitted to the Department. Two public informational hearings will be held for this project. Enclosed is a description of the proposed work, associated plans, and notice for Public Hearings to provide oral testimony.

Project Details:

The project will include construction of a protection system to the piers closest to the main navigation spans that accommodate inbound and outbound vessel traffic in the federal navigation channel. The protection structures are designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay Bridge against vessel impacts, mainly the four towers supporting the main spans of the Eastbound and Westbound Bay Bridges adjacent to the federal navigation channel. The total proposed permanent impacts are 147,280 square feet of fill (3.38 acres) within State tidal waters. Mitigation for impacts to the Chesapeake Bay resulting in loss of open water may be assessed.

Enclosed are the proposed project plans. The project plan set, as well as additional information on this project, and public hearing updates can be found at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Project Page:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/BayBridgeProtection.aspx>

Project information can be found at MDTA's Project Page:

<https://mdta.maryland.gov/BayBridgeProtection>

Hearing Details:

Two public informational hearings will be held to gather testimony and information to assist the MDE in its evaluation of applications for a Tidal Wetlands License.

Testimony and Comments: Statements in support of or in opposition to this project may be presented orally during the hearing (either in person or virtually) or submitted in writing. For instructions on written testimony, please refer to the "**How to Submit Comments**" section below.

Accessibility and Accommodations: The physical meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require a reasonable accommodation or a language interpreter to participate in either the in-person or virtual session, please contact MDE at mde.accommodations@maryland.gov or call 410-537-3152 (MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1). Requests should be made at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting date.

Anne Arundel County Hearing Schedule:

Date:	Monday, April 20, 2026
Location:	Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold Campus 101 College Pkwy Arnold, MD 21012
Poster Session:	6:00 PM to 6:30 PM
Hearing:	6:30 PM to 8:00 PM (hearing may be extended past 8:00 PM if members of the public are still present who have not provided oral testimony and are interested in providing oral testimony)
Public Comment Closing Date:	April 30, 2026



Queen Anne's County Hearing Schedule:

- Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2026
- Location:** **Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department**
1610 Main St.
Chester, MD 21619
- Poster Session:** 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM
- Hearing:** 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM (hearing may be extended past 8:00 PM if members of the public are still present who have not provided oral testimony and are interested in providing oral testimony)
- Public Comment Closing Date:** April 30, 2026

How to Submit Comments:

If you cannot attend the hearing or prefer to submit your comments in writing, please do so by **April 30, 2026**. In order for your comments to be considered they need to be submitted prior to the end of the comment period. Please be sure to include the Tracking Number (**202561639**) on any correspondence. Please direct your comments to the appropriate project manager based on your topic.

- **By Email or Phone:** Send to ed.tinney@maryland.gov or Call (410) 537-3745
- **By Mail:** Send to the address below:

Maryland Department of the Environment
Attention: Ed Tinney / T#: 202561639
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430
Baltimore, MD 21230

Your comments, those of other interested parties, and resource agencies will be considered by MDE to determine whether to issue, modify, or deny the State authorizations. Anyone who submits a comment will be added to the interested persons list and will receive mailed or emailed updates regarding the final permit decisions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stewart
Chief, Tidal Wetlands Division
Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program
Water and Science Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment

**Enclosure: Proposed project overview plans (3 pages)