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18 MAY 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE D05PN-07-2020

All interested parties are notified that an application dated April 1, 2020, has been received from the Maryland Transportation Authority by the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, for approval of the location and plans for modification of an existing highway fixed bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Potomac River, mile 50.0, between Newburg, Charles County, MD and Dahlgren, King George County, VA.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to replace the existing Harry W. Nice / Thomas "MAC" Middleton bridge that carries US Route 301 over the lower Potomac River. The replacement bridge will be geometrically compatible with the US 301 approach roadway. The new proposed navigational opening remains within the main span of the existing bridge, which will result in less impact to navigation both during and after construction of the new bridge and demolition of the existing bridge. The existing bridge will be removed down to two feet below the mud line or natural ground line. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing US 301 bridge with a structure that will address capacity limitations and traffic operations. The replacement bridge will improve traffic safety and provide the ability to maintain two-way traffic flow along US 301 during wide-load crossings, incidents, poor weather conditions and while performing bridge maintenance and rehabilitation work.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Vertical Clearance: 135 feet above mean high water	Vertical Clearance: 135 feet above mean high water
Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel) 700 feet between the pilings	Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel) 250 feet between the pilings

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) (Existing and Proposed bridges)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FHWA is acting on behalf of the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) for all applicable environmental control laws and Executive Orders. The FHWA approved an Environmental Assessment (EA) on July 30, 2009, and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact dated February 28, 2019. The USCG determined that the environmental documentation approved and issued by the FHWA was adequate for USCG bridge permitting purposes, adopted the bridge-related portions of the EA, issued a USCG FONSI dated March 20, 2020, and issued USCG Bridge Permit (1-20-5) dated March 20, 2020.

In response to the submission of the final design as depicted in the attached plan sheets, the FHWA is currently conducting a NEPA re-evaluation, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is reviewing the changes in impacts to wetlands and Maryland Department of the Environment and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality are reviewing the changes in impacts to water quality. The USCG will review the findings of the FHWA NEPA re-evaluation and the documentation resulting from agency reviews related to changes in impacts to wetlands and water quality, and if found adequate for bridge permitting purposes, adopt the bridge-related portions of the FHWA NEPA re-evaluation.

Environmental documents are available for review at the address in the letterhead above, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Due to restrictions associated with the coronavirus pandemic, individuals desiring to review environmental documents should contact CGDFiveBridges@uscg.mil at least two business days prior to the date they intend to visit.

A Water Quality Certificate was issued by the State of Maryland via permit description 18-WQC-0092/201860174 dated January 23, 2019, and by the State of Virginia via letter dated October 18, 2018.

The bridge is not located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood level is +9 feet from datum and low steel of the bridge in the navigation span is +136.8 feet from datum.

The bridge construction site lies inside of a designated Coastal Zone Management area. The applicant provided the Maryland Department of the Environmental (MDE) with the project location information and a certification of consistency. The MDE issued a finding October 2012, and reevaluation on February 28, 2019, that the project will not pose any effects on coastal uses or resources within the coastal zone.

Comments received in response to this notice concerning environmental control laws and Executive Orders will be forwarded to FHWA as lead Federal Agency.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to provide navigational information, such as the sizes and types of vessels presently owned and operated on the waterway and nature of navigation (including the extent of nighttime navigation) on the waterway. Mariners are requested to comment on the navigational clearances and need for bridge protective systems, clearance gauges, and navigational lighting on the proposed bridge. Please submit the attached response form.

Interest parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed project. Comments will be received for the record at the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 through **June 1, 2020**.

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HAL R. PITTS
Bridge Program Manager
By direction

Attachments: (1) Response Form
(2) Location/Vicinity Maps and Plan Sheets

“This is s web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version.”

Harry W. Nice/Thomas “Mac” Middleton (US 301) Bridge
 Lower Potomac River, mile 50.0,
 between Newburg, Charles County, MD and Dahlgren, King George County, VA
Public Notice D05PN-07-2020
 Response Form

It is requested that anyone having an interest in this proposed project, from the standpoint of navigation, submit vessel information, comments, and recommendations on this form to the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 by **June 1, 2020**.

Vessel Information	Please provide all requested information:
Vessel Type	
Use – <i>Commercial and/or Recreational</i>	
Vessel Height	
Draft	
Length	
Beam	
Tonnage	
Mooring Location	

Name (Optional): _____

Address (Optional): _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Comments and Recommendations: _____
