



**For Immediate Release**

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**AM PARTNERS GRANTED ADDITIONAL TIME TO SUBMIT  
NEW AMERICAN LEGION BRIDGE I-270 TRAFFIC RELIEF PLAN  
SECTION PROPOSAL**

**New March 21, 2023, Deadline Provides Day-for-Day Extension  
for 10-Month Delayed Record of Decision for Managed Lanes Study**

**HANOVER, MD** (November 17, 2022) – Following the 10-month delay of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) extended the deadline for Accelerate Maryland Partners (AM Partners) to submit a complete and compliant Committed Section Proposal for Phase 1 South. The scope of the Committed Section Proposal for Phase 1 South will include the final design, construction, financing, operations and maintenance of High Occupancy Toll lanes on I-495 from the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia, across the new American Legion Bridge, and up I-270 to I-370. As outlined in the Phase P3 Agreement approved by the Board of Public Works, AM Partners is entitled to relief due to the delay in securing the project's ROD. The original May 27, 2022 deadline was extended 10 months to March 21, 2023. The new deadline grants AM Partners a day-for-day extension in the amount of time provided to submit a proposal due to the delay in the ROD approval.

“Thanks to a lot of hard work, MDOT is proud to have secured the Record of Decision for this key project to replace the American Legion Bridge and provide congestion relief and additional travel options to commuters in the National Capital Region,” said Transportation Secretary James F. Ports, Jr. “Achieving this important milestone is a critical step forward for this transformational project.”

Because of the critical importance of this project to the National Capital Region, MDOT applied for a federal grant to replace the 60-year-old American Legion Bridge from the Bridge Investment Program established by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. With the ROD in place, Maryland should have a competitive edge for the grant with a federally approved project to deliver congestion relief, improve transit options and provide alternative transportation options with a bicycle and pedestrian path that connects miles of existing trail networks in Maryland and Virginia.

Approval of the ROD marked the final milestone in a National Environmental Policy Act process that spanned more than four years and included 16 public workshops and seven public hearings with extended public comment periods totaling more than six months. More than 200 stakeholder, community, elected official and business meetings were held to present study information and hear concerns and feedback. The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration approved the ROD on August 25, 2022, 10

months later than the October 31, 2021, date established in the Phase P3 Agreement. Part of the delay in obtaining the ROD was to meet stakeholders' requests to:

- consider a new alternative along the Intercounty Connector (MD 200) and I-95;
- align the preferred alternative and permitting process with the phased delivery approach focusing on addressing the severe congestion at the American Legion Bridge as a priority;
- reduce property, community, historic, natural resources and parkland impacts; and
- provide additional beneficial multi-modal – including transit, pedestrian, and bicycle – improvements along the project corridor.

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Editor's note: From intersection improvements to widening and new interchange construction, MDOT SHA is investing in projects to enhance the commute and daily travel for millions of Marylanders. MDOT SHA maintains more than 2,500 bridges and 17,000 miles of non-toll state roads – the interstate, US and state numbered routes in Maryland's 23 counties.