MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

NEW BRIDGE

MD 273 (Telegraph Road) over Big Elk Creek

MARYLAND 273

Project Design Complete; Construction to Begin

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is working on a project to replace the bridge on MD 273 (Telegraph Road) over Big Elk Creek in Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area (Fair Hill NRMA). The bridge is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.

Construction on the new bridge will begin Fall/Winter 2018 and last until Summer 2020. Additional work that will occur as a part of this project includes minor bridge widening, guardrail replacement, and the construction of stormwater management facilities east of the project site at Marlyn Drive near the Appleton Road intersection. There will also be trail reconstruction under the MD 273 bridge, which will cause temporary trail closures.

MDOT SHA will make every effort to complete this project as quickly as possible while minimizing impacts on area residents, businesses, motorists, and Fair Hill NRMA.

How does this project affect Fair Hill Park?

The bridge on MD 273 is adjacent to the Fair Hill NRMA, a state park owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). MDOT SHA has coordinated with DNR and Park representatives regarding the project scope and the impacts on Fair Hill NRMA.

The MD 273 bridge over Big Elk Creek spans over two existing park trails: The "Double Track Trail" (carriage trail) and the "Single Track Trail" (shared or multi-use trail). These trails will be reconstructed within the limits of the MD 273 bridge project area. A 30-day trail closure will be required to complete the work. The closure will be scheduled during a period of minimal trail use, and a temporary shelter will be provided to shield trail users from construction activities when passing under the bridge.

Occasional, short-duration trail closures may also be necessary throughout the bridge project. Trail closure and detour information will be posted in Fair Hill parking lots and conveyed via state websites and social media. Detour signs will also be placed throughout the trail as necessary. **Access to Big Elk Creek within the project area will be closed to fishing for the duration of the project.** For the safety of all visitors, fishing from the temporary trail shelter will not be permitted. Please contact the Fair Hill NRMA office for information on alternate fishing areas.

SPECIAL NOTE TO HORSE RIDERS & CARRIAGES: Various bridge construction activities including pile driving/ drilling, excavation, demolition, sawing, welding, etc. will take place above the trails throughout this project. These activities may be visible or audible when approaching the work area and when passing under the temporary trail shelter. Horses may become distracted, startled, or anxious. KNOW YOUR HORSE(S) AND YOUR LIMITATIONS BEFORE APPROACHING THIS AREA. Plan accordingly and choose alternate trail routes if necessary.

How will local traffic be impacted during construction?

During construction, traffic will be maintained on MD 273 (Telegraph Road) by allowing for two-way traffic in one reversible lane controlled by a system of traffic signals. Signal timing will be monitored and adjusted as needed based on traffic conditions. This method of maintaining traffic has been used successfully on many other MDOT SHA projects; however, be advised that wide loads may not fit through the work zone when this traffic pattern is in use.

FIND US ON THE WEB

For project details please visit MDOT SHA's website at **www.roads.maryland.gov** and click on **Projects and Studies**, **MDOT SHA Projects Page**. Type **MD 273** in the lower search box, select **MD 273, Telegraph Road BRIDGE 0704400 OVER BIG ELK CREEK** from the dropdown menu, then click on the **Additional Project Information** link in the callout box.

For More Information

MD 273 Bridge Project - For additional information related to the MD 273 project and trail closures please contact:

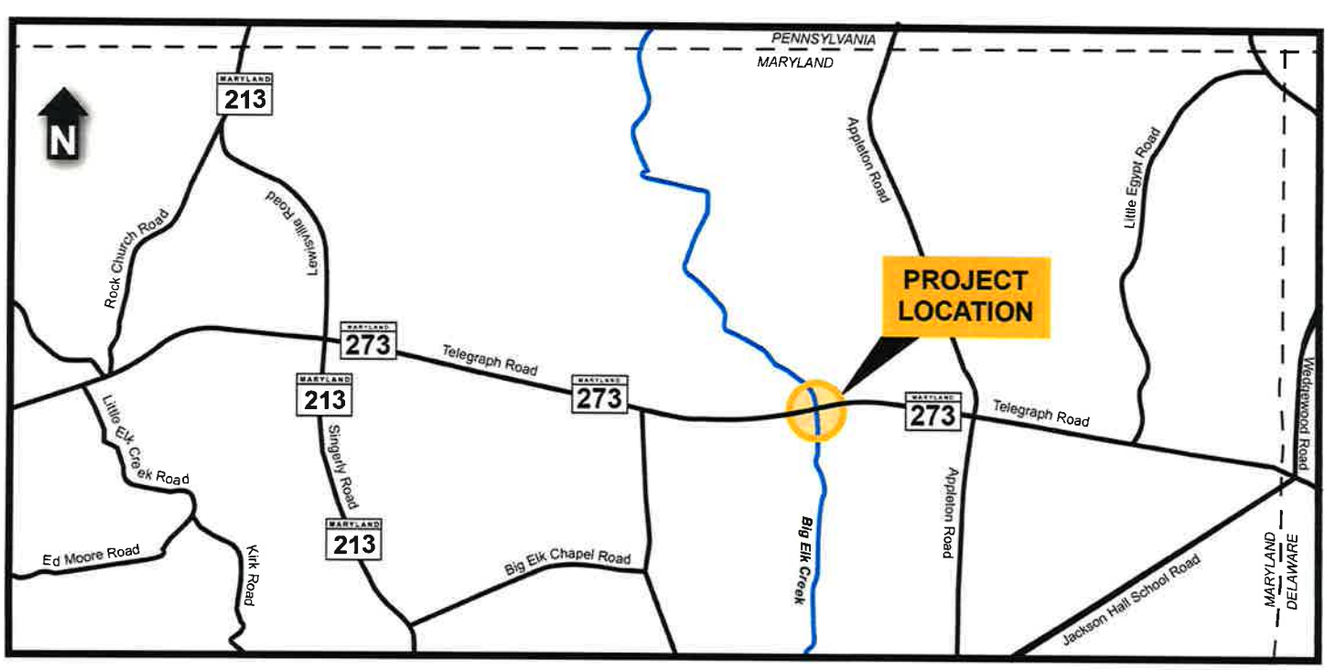
Mr. Bob Rager, Community Liaison
MDOT State Highway Administration
District 2 Office
615 Morgnec Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
Phone: 410-810-3226
Email: rrager@sha.state.md.us

When requesting trail updates via email, please include in the subject line "Fair Hill Trails"

NRMA Trail - For information regarding the detour route, please contact:

On-Duty Ranger: (410) 218-1698

Park Office: (410) 898-1246



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See Inside for more details

(including an optional trail detour at Fair Hill NRMA)

Request for Assistance

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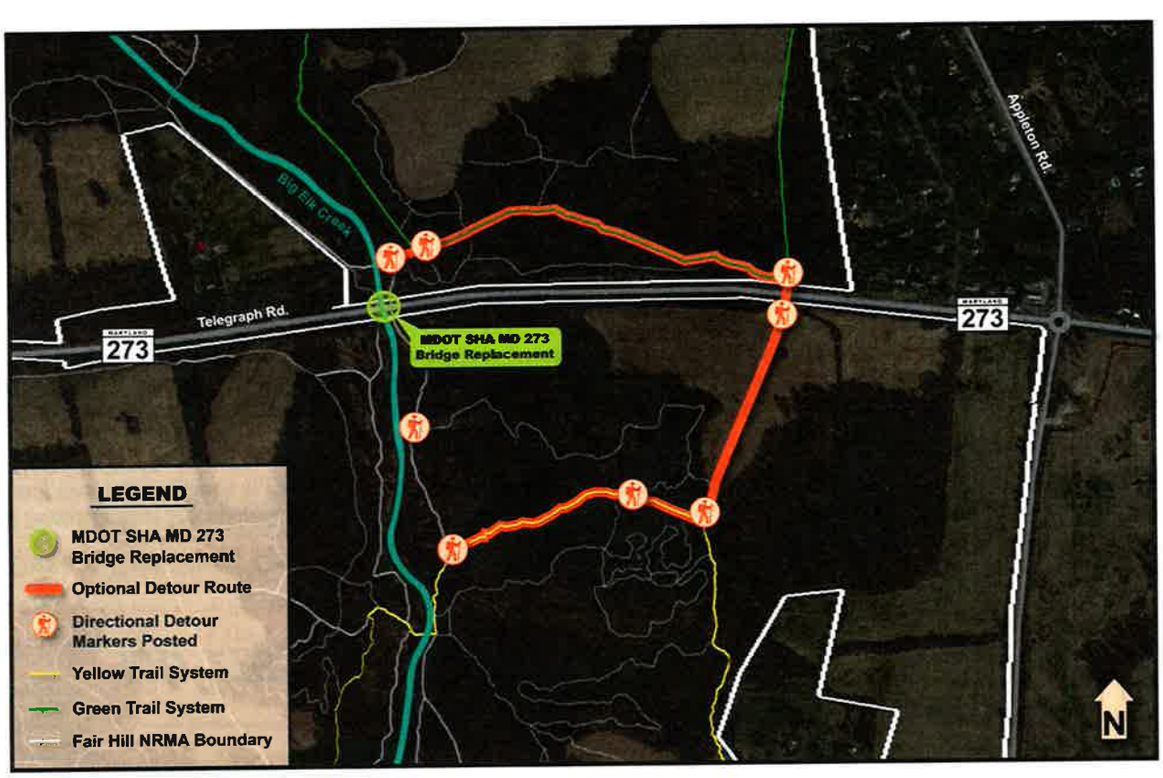
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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