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For Immediate Release: June 23, 2003

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AT THE HATEM BRIDGE ON US 40

PERRYVILLE, MD (June 23, 2003) – To educate the public and help prevent alcohol-related crashes, Maryland Transportation Authority Police, with the assistance of the Department of the Maryland State Police and the Cecil County Sheriff's Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint at the toll plaza of the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40 between Perryville and Havre de Grace) during the weekend of June 28-29. The checkpoint is part of an ongoing effort to intensify the fight against impaired driving and provide safe-roads for Maryland's citizens and visitors.

During the sobriety checkpoint, police will distribute information about laws and penalties associated with driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Motorists caught driving while intoxicated or while under the influence will be arrested and prosecuted.

"The Maryland Transportation Authority wants to remind drivers that impaired driving is a dangerous and often deadly crime that we cannot afford to overlook on our roadways," said Thomas L. Osborne, executive secretary of the Authority. "The greatest tragedy is that deaths due to alcohol-related crashes are preventable."

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, in 2002, alcohol-related crashes killed nearly 18,000 people in the United States, the most fatalities since 1992.

"We will continue to educate motorists about the risks involved with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs," said Gary W. McLhinney, chief of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police. "Those who choose to continue driving while impaired will pay the consequences."

The Maryland Transportation Authority Police, a nationally accredited agency, is the seventh-largest law-enforcement agency in the State, with more than 500 civilian and sworn law-enforcement professionals. Officers provide police services at the Authority's toll facilities, the Baltimore/Washington International Airport and the Port of Baltimore.

Contact:
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Note: If you choose to use an abbreviation, please refer to the Maryland Transportation Authority Police as MdTA Police. Thank you.



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