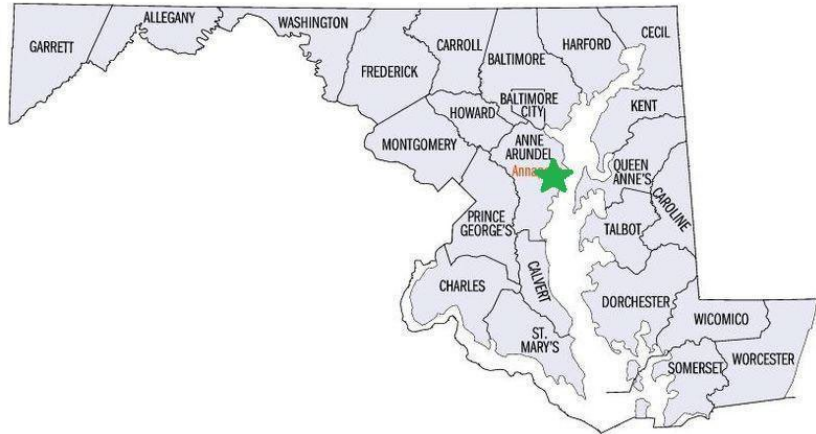


Anne Arundel County - Maryland Route 2 Bridge Area - South River



What was requested?

The Department received a request to extend the existing Maryland Route 2 (MD 2) Bridge Area speed zone in the South River. The request is to extend the boundary approximately 600 yards upstream on the south side of South River. The new zone would begin at the south end of the MD 2 bridge and include the shoreline of the Edgewater Beach neighborhood to the northeast point of land. The affected area is currently regulated during the boating season with a speed limit of 35 knots from sunrise to sunset and 20 knots from sunset to sunrise. The request would change the speed limit to 6 knots during the boating season.

Why was this change requested?

The Department was provided the following information:

- The current speed zone runs at an angle across the South River from Gingerville to the south end of the bridge. The result of that angle is that higher speeds are allowed on the south side of the South River.
- Boat traffic congestion, and dangerous boating conditions near the piers and neighborhoods on the south side of the river are a result of the higher speed zone.
- The request is to have the speed zone run straight across the river instead of at the current angle. That would result in that area on the South River having the same speed limit on both sides of the river.

What are the current regulations in the area?

The requested area is within the speed zone described in COMAR 08.18.25.02C: Area Between Riva Bridge and Route 2 Bridge. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point Lat. 38° 56.916' N., Long. 76° 33.429' W., then running 358° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 57.377' N., Long. 76° 33.447' W., and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 57.229' N., Long. 76° 34.330' W., then running 30° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 57.451' N., Long. 76° 34.166' W.

Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limits for this area are:

- (1) 35 knots from sunrise to sunset during the boating season; and
- (2) 20 knots from sunset to sunrise during the boating season.

The request is to extend the following area described in COMAR 08.18.25.02B: Route 2 Bridge Area. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 56.783' N., Long. 76° 32.981' W., then running 32° (True) to Shadow Point, at or near Lat. 38° 57.057' N., Long. 76° 32.762' W., and downstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 56.916' N., Long. 76° 33.429' W., then running 358° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 57.377' N., Long. 76° 33.447' W., and not including Warehouse and Gingerville Creeks. Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limit for this area is 6 knots.

Definitions

“6 knots (6.9 MPH)” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel:

- (a) At a boat speed in excess of 6 knots (6.9 statute miles per hour, or 11.1 kilometers per hour); or
- (b) To tow an individual on a ski, aquaplane, or similar device.

“20 knots (23 MPH)” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel at a boat speed in excess of 20 knots (23 statute miles per hour or 42.6 kilometers per hour).

“35 knots (40.25 MPH)” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel at a boat speed in excess of 35 knots (40.25 statute miles per hour or 74.5 kilometers per hour).

“Boating season” means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each April 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding October 15.

Regulatory Process

Boating rules in Maryland may be created by either the General Assembly or the Department. When the Department creates a boating rule, it is called a regulation. When the General Assembly creates a rule, it is called a statute. The Department often has to create a regulation to implement a statute. The regulatory process begins with scoping and the Department follows normal [procedures](#) as concepts move forward.

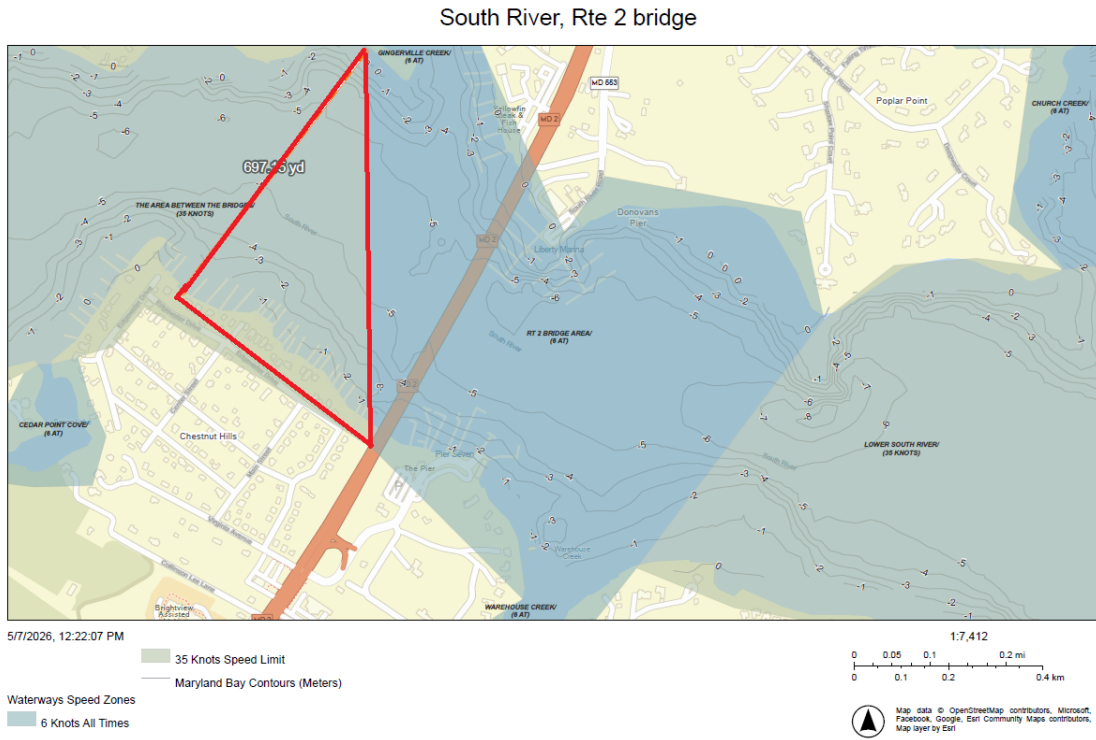
During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed. After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the Department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

When could this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the spring of 2027. However, the exact date cannot be determined at this time.

Maps of the Area - Maryland Route 2 Bridge Area, South River

The area requested is the polygon outlined in red.



Corresponding satellite image of the requested area.

