Drawbridge Openings

Drawbridge openings are scheduled by the U.S. Coast Guard - not the City. Much to a driver’s dismay, federal law (33 U.S.C. 499) gives maritime traffic the right-of-way over roadway traffic. The City works with the U.S. Coast Guard to schedule “restricted periods” in order to help with congestion on the roads. The City must follow all U.S. Coast Guard rules regarding bridge openings.

Avoiding Openings

Our region is full of beautiful waterways which means it’s also full of bridges. We do our best to keep the public aware of bridge opening schedules. During restricted hours, we encourage you to stay tuned to local media (tv, radio and social media). They generally announce bridge openings that are scheduled during rush hours. Outside of those hours, it helps to become familiar with bridge opening schedules.

While there are often unscheduled openings for the reasons mentioned in this brochure, knowing the schedules and following local media can be helpful. For more information on bridges in Chesapeake please visit:

www.CityofChesapeake.net/Bridges
**Great Bridge Bridge**  
Battlefield Boulevard  
Crosse the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway  
- **Schedule**: Opens on the hour from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Opens on demand from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. on all days.  
  - **Height (At Mean Water)**: 5.4 feet  
  - **Weight Limit**: Legal Load  
  - **Owned By**: City of Chesapeake  

**Centerville Bridge**  
Centerville Turnpike  
Crosse the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway  
- **Schedule**: Monday-Friday, except federal holidays, opens on the hour and half-hour from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. except during restricted periods. Opens on demand at all other times.  
  - **Restricted Periods**: 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.  
  - **Height (At Mean Water)**: 3 feet  
  - **Weight Limit**: Legal Load  
  - **Owned By**: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  

**Restricted Periods**  
Restricted periods take place Monday through Friday except for federal holidays during the hours noted for each bridge. During restricted periods, bridges will open for cargo vessels and tug boats with a two-hour advance reservation. Pleasure craft may be let through on these reserved openings but there will not be any openings just for pleasure craft during restricted periods. All bridges will open on demand at any time for vessels carrying hazardous materials, government vessels or any vessel in an emergency situation.