



## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

### Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act *de minimis* Finding

#### MD 320 (Piney Branch Road) at Sligo Creek Parkway

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is considering traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of MD 320 (Piney Branch Road) and Sligo Creek Parkway in Montgomery County. This project is located within the boundary of the Sligo Creek Park/Parkway, a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission-owned property.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROJECT

#### **Why is this work necessary and what improvements are proposed?**

The purpose of the project is to improve pedestrian access and safety at the intersection of MD 320 and Sligo Creek Parkway in Prince George's County. The scope of work includes upgrading the existing signal equipment to meet current pedestrian and vehicular signal standards.

#### **Why are comments being requested?**

Section 6009(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) allows the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on protected resources. With respect to publicly owned parks and recreation areas, a finding of *de minimis* impact may occur if a transportation project does not "adversely affect the activities, features and attributes" of the Section 4(f) resource. When this is the case, the finding of FHWA requires written concurrence from the official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource. Public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required. Public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required.

#### **What are the impacts to protected Section 4(f) resources?**

The existing signal equipment is located within the right-of-way of Sligo Creek Parkway, a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission property. SHA proposes to acquire a perpetual easement around the signal equipment for future maintenance. Although the easement required from the park is considered a "use" as defined by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), there will be no negative impact on activities, features, and attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f). SHA, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request the Federal Highway Administration make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). M-NCPPC, as officials with jurisdiction, concurred with the *de minimis* finding on May 27, 2014. The public is requested to provide comments on this finding.

#### **Do You Have Additional Questions or Comments?**

Please contact Ms. Stacey Tesch, SHA Project Manager, (410) 545-2886 or toll-free (866) 462-0020 or Ms. Caryn G. Brookman, SHA Environmental Manager, (410) 545-8698 or toll-free (866) 527-0502, [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov).