



## Request for Public Comment

### Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act- *de minimis* Finding

*MD 175 Corridor from west of the MD 295 (Baltimore Washington Parkway)  
Interchange to MD 170 (Telegraph Road/Piney Orchard Anne Arundel County)*

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is considering eliminating the northeast and southwest loop ramps of the MD 175/MD 295 interchange in Anne Arundel County. This project will impact the Baltimore Washington Parkway property owned and managed by the National Park Service -National Capital Parks East and protected under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (Section 44(f)).

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROJECT

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

The improvements are necessary to address projected operational and safety deficiencies. In addition, this project will serve to accommodate future transportation needs in and around Fort Meade and assist in revitalizing the commercial district in North Odenton. The area around Fort Meade is one of the fastest growing areas of Anne Arundel County.

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

23 CFR 774.5(b) of Section 4(f) allows the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on the protected resource. 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 officials with jurisdiction over the resource. In addition, 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 improvements at MD 175/MD 295 interchange will affect the parkland south of MD 295 owned and managed by National Park Service. Ramp widening in the southeast quadrant of the interchange and stream restoration activities in the southwest quadrant will occur as part of the MDOT SHA project. There will be minor negative impact on activities, features, and attributes that qualify the area for protection under Section 4(f). MDOT SHA, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request that FHWA make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). National Park Service is being informed of MDOT SHA's intent to seek a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact finding. With this notice, the public is afforded the opportunity to provide comments on this finding.

##### **How do I comment?**

Please contact Mr. Christopher Weber, MDOT SHA Project Manager at (410) 545-8834 or [cweber@sha.state.md.us](mailto:cweber@sha.state.md.us), or Ms. Anne Elrays, MDOT SHA Environmental Manager at (410) 545-8562 or [aelrys@sha.state.md.us](mailto:aelrys@sha.state.md.us); or visit us at [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov).