



Request for Public Comment

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

MD 213 over Old Mill Stream Branch Bridge Replacement

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) proposes to replace Bridge No. 1702100 on MD 213 over Old Mill Stream Branch in Queen Anne's County, MD. The existing bridge, which was built in 1912 and rehabilitated in 1945, is currently rated structurally deficient. MDOT SHA proposes replacing the existing bridge with a steel girder bridge. This project will impact Millstream Park, a publicly owned public park protected under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (Section 4(f)).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROJECT

Why is this work necessary and what improvements are proposed?

The purpose of the project is to address structural deficiencies in the bridge that compromise public safety. The project's overall scope of work includes replacing the bridge on existing alignment with a 74-foot 2-inch long single span steel girder bridge with an overall bridge width of 50 feet 2 inches. The roadway on the bridge will contain two 11-foot lanes, an auxiliary lane that develops moving north, varying shoulder widths, and a 5-foot 8-inch side walk on the east side to match the existing approach sidewalk.

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 project will require fee simple right-of-way acquisition of 4,069-square-feet (0.09 acre) and temporary impacts to 844-square-feet (0.02 acre) of Millstream Park, owned by the Town of Centreville. The fee-simple purchase area currently consists of a grass-covered area, drainage outfall area, sidewalk, and a portion of Old Mill Stream Branch and will be used for stormwater management. The temporary easement portion is currently a paved entrance area to Millstream Park. Although the easement and purchase of a portion of Millstream Park would constitute a "use" as defined under Section 4(f), 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 advising the public that it will request that FHWA make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). The Town of Centreville was informed of MDOT SHA's intent to seek a *de minimis* impact finding on March 6, 2018. With this notice, the public is afforded the opportunity to provide comments on this finding.

How do I comment?

Please contact Mr. Justin Mohr, MDOT SHA Project Manager at (410) 545-8365 or JMohr@sha.state.md.us, or Ms. Sara Al-Najjar, MDOT SHA Environmental Manager at (410) 545-0095 or Salnajjar@sha.state.md.us; or visit us at www.roads.maryland.gov.