



## Request for Public Comment

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

*Riverdale Road over Northeast Branch of Anacostia River Bridge 1606900*

*Prince George's County*

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) is proposing the replacement of Structure 1606900 along Riverdale Road over Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River in Prince George's County, MD. This project would impact the Anacostia River Stream Valley Park which is owned and managed by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County and protected under Section 4(f) of the US 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 this project is to provide a safe and reliable crossing for automobiles, cyclists, and pedestrians, and enhance community connectivity. The bridge crosses the Northeast Branch of Anacostia River and provides east-west connectivity within the town of Riverdale Park. Replacement of the bridge is necessary due to safety and structural needs and does not meet current operational roadway design standards. The structure lacks shoulders and the existing sidewalk is inconsistent with SHA's Accessibility Policy & Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities Along State Highways. The existing bridge deck and superstructure are rated poor, and the bridge is subject to flooding by a 100-year storm event.

The proposed work includes removing the existing two-span concrete arch bridge and replacing it with a new bridge. The new bridge would be a single span girder bridge with a length of 100 feet. The new bridge would be constructed on the existing alignment and would be 47.6 feet wide, accommodating two 11-foot travel lanes, a 10-foot shared use path on the north side, and 5.6-foot sidewalk with 5-foot shoulders on the south side. A micro-bioretention facility would be constructed in the southeast quadrant of the project area, and existing utilities along the structure would be relocated. Landscaping would be completed around the micro-bioretention facility.

The bridge would be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic during construction. Drivers would be detoured to MD 410 (East-West Highway) via Taylor Road and MD 201 (Kenilworth Avenue). A prefabricated temporary bridge would be erected south of the existing bridge to maintain pedestrian and bicyclist movement through the area while the new bridge is under construction.

## **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 would 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, including any proposed mitigation, does not "adversely affect the activities, features and attributes" of the Section 4(f) resource. When this is the case, public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the proposed finding is required. In addition, the finding of FHWA requires written concurrence from the officials with jurisdiction over the resource. Before concurring, the officials with jurisdiction must consider any public comments received.

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

The proposed work would impact approximately 1.86 acres of land within Anacostia River Stream Valley Park. Much of the impact area is temporary and related to construction of the proposed bridge, installation of the temporary pedestrian bridge, and implementation of sediment and erosion control measures. The SHA and the M-NCPPC would also enter into a long-term agreement for SHA maintenance of the new bridge footprint inside parkland as well as the proposed micro-bioretention facility. There may be temporary impacts to the Northeast Branch Trail while the temporary bridge is installed, but there would be no permanent trail impacts from the project. Anacostia River Stream Valley Park is 530.03 acres in size and has recreational amenities consisting of trails and trail access, playgrounds, and picnic areas. The proposed impacts to Anacostia River Stream Valley Park would not affect the above listed activities. The overall impacts to this property would be minor and are, therefore, not expected to adversely affect the activities, features and attributes of Anacostia River Stream Valley Park.

The 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). M-NCPPC is being informed of 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. Jordan Tacchetti, SHA Project Manager at (410) 545-8378 or [JTacchetti@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:JTacchetti@mdot.maryland.gov) or Ms. Kirby Amoriello, SHA Environmental Manager at (410) 545-2874 or [KAmoriello.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:KAmoriello.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov); or visit the project webpage at <https://arcg.is/1PDzKH1>.