

STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Contact: MDOT SHA Office of Communications, 410-545-0303

MDOT SHA to Hold Six Public Workshops on Alternatives for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study in Montgomery County and Prince George's County

For Immediate Release - March 7, 2019

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) will hold its next round of public workshops in April for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, which considers improvements along two of the state's most congested highways, I-495 (Capital Beltway) and I-270 (Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Highway).

Multiple studies over the last decade have shown that the National Capital Region is one of the most congested in the nation, and Marylanders face the second highest commuting times in the country. Today on average, travelers experience seven hours of congestion daily on I-270. The duration is even worse on I-495 with travelers experiencing 10 hours of congestion daily.

To address this congestion, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) are completing the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study. This study is looking to provide a solution that addresses congestion, improves trip reliability, and enhances existing and planned mobility and connectivity for other modes of travel including transit. The study begins on I-495 south of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia, and includes addressing the serious regional bottleneck at the American Legion Bridge, and extends to west of MD 5 and includes I-270 from I-495 to I-370.

Since presenting the <u>Preliminary Range of Alternatives</u> in July 2018, MDOT SHA completed an initial screening which reduced the preliminary alternatives to seven recommended Screened Alternatives. Public workshops are being held to present the traffic, environmental, and financial analyses for the <u>recommended Screened Alternatives</u> along with the recommendations for the alternatives to be retained for detailed study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The upcoming April 2019 public workshops, will give the public another opportunity to provide input to MDOT SHA, specifically on the alternatives to be retained for detailed study. In response to public feedback, MDOT SHA has added more public workshop dates and times including opportunities for the public to meet on Saturdays in both Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Public workshops will be held at the following locations and times in Montgomery and Prince George's counties:

Thursday, April 11, 2019 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex 8001 Sheriff Rd. Landover, MD 20785

Saturday, April 13, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pyle Middle School 6311 Wilson Ln. Bethesda, MD 20817

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Eleanor Roosevelt High School 7601 Hanover Pkwy Greenbelt, MD 20770

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern Middle School 300 University Blvd, East Silver Spring, MD 20901

Thursday, April 25, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Thomas Wootton High School 2100 Wootton Pkwy Rockville, MD 20850

Saturday, April 27, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Suitland Community Center 5600 Regency Lane Suitland-Silver Hill, MD 20746

The workshop materials will include informational displays, handouts, and interactive and hard copy mapping. Staff will be available to answer questions. During the week, two presentations will occur at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, two presentations will occur at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Presentations are the same and will provide an overview of where we are today with time for questions and answers.

CONTACT INFORMATION: The public is also encouraged to comment online at www.495-270-P3.com, via email at 495-270-P3@sha.state.md.us, or by hard copy during the workshops.

Hand written comments will be received at the public workshops or verbal comments may be provided to a court reporter. Comments from the meeting can also be mailed to:

I-495 and I-270 P3 Office Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration 707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601 Baltimore MD 21202

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1. Persons requiring assistance to participate, such as an interpreter for hearing/speech difficulties or assistance with the English language, should contact the project toll-free number at 833-858-5960 by April 1, 2019.

For more information, please visit <u>www.495-270-p3.com</u>.

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