



**P3  
PROGRAM**

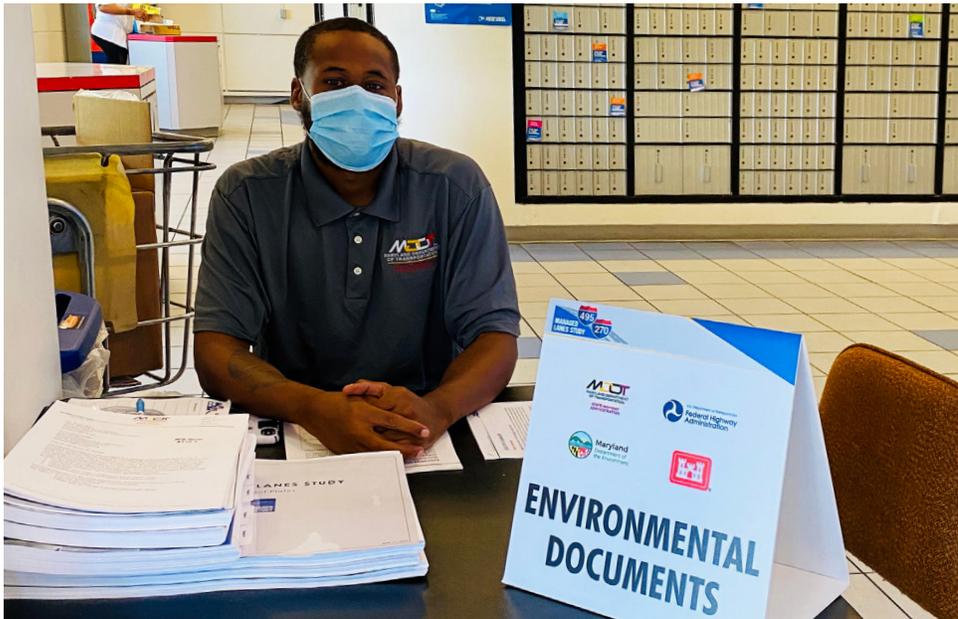
SUMMER 2020

# P3 PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## I-495 & I-270 MANAGED LANES STUDY PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will conduct six Joint Public Hearings on the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study (MLS) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) published July 10, 2020. With an emphasis on public health, safety, and access as Maryland continues its COVID-19 recovery, four of the hearings will be held virtually, and two will be in-person hearings. The hearings will be held in August and September, and the 90-day public comment period will close October 8, 2020. The DEIS considers ways to relieve congestion and improve I-495 & I-270 trip reliability, mobility and connectivity for modes of travel, including transit, in the National Capital Region.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will participate in one hearing on August 25, as comments are also being accepted on the Joint Permit Application (JPA) for the Alteration of Any Floodplain, Waterway, Tidal or Nontidal Wetland in Maryland.



MDOT SHA's Delonte Wright sits at an information table inside the Hampton Park Post Office, one of 21 sites where the public can review documents and materials related to the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study DEIS. Visit the program website for document review locations.

The DEIS and JPA with supporting technical reports are available online at [495-270-p3.com/DEIS](https://495-270-p3.com/DEIS). Hard copies are available for review at multiple locations in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as one in Fairfax, VA and one in Washington, D.C.

(continued)

## MDOT SHA CONTINUES OPERATIONS TO KEEP MARYLAND ROADWAYS OPEN AND SAFE

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, all MDOT SHA operations — including maintenance-construction, traffic incident monitoring and response and business functions — have remained active to serve Maryland residents, commercial truck partners, businesses and travelers. Facilities are operating with most staff teleworking and minimal in-office staff to maximize social distancing while continuing to deliver critical services and products. In the field, we provided protective equipment, obtained sanitizer and have done everything we can to keep our personnel and contractors safe.



## I-495 & I-270 MLS PUBLIC HEARINGS (continued)

In our ongoing commitment to protect the public and team members during COVID-19 restrictions, MDOT encourages the public to testify virtually, either online or by phone.

**Four virtual/online hearings** are scheduled:

**August 18, August 20, August 25 and September 3** from **9 AM to 8 PM**

To testify, please **register in advance** by visiting [495-270-p3.com/DEIS](https://495-270-p3.com/DEIS). In addition, the public can call 855-432-1483 anytime during the hearings to listen to public testimony, or to leave testimony by voicemail. Press \* to hear your options.

**Two in-person hearings** are scheduled:

**September 1**, from **12 PM to 9 PM** at Homewood Suites by Hilton, 9103 Basil Court, Largo, MD 20774, in Prince George's County

**September 10**, from **12 PM to 9 PM** at Hilton Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, in Montgomery County

**To promote social distancing, testimony at these hearings will be by appointment only.**

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC OR ONE-ON-ONE TESTIMONY:

- Register by calling 833-858-5960
- Choose public testimony to panelists or one-on-one testimony to court reporter
- Registered participants will be placed in time slots and may listen to public testimony. Limited staff will be available to answer questions
- Registered participants will receive the same brochure that is on the Program website
- Social distancing protocols will be strictly enforced, including required face coverings, hand sanitizing stations, and limited capacity in the hearing room
- Call 855-432-1483 to listen live and/or leave your testimony by voicemail on hearing dates from 12 PM to 9 PM

The public also may provide comments by using an online form at [495-270-p3.com/DEIS](https://495-270-p3.com/DEIS), emailing [MLS-NEPA-P3@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:MLS-NEPA-P3@mdot.maryland.gov) or sending mail to:

**Lisa B. Choplin, DBIA**

Director, I-495 & I-270 P3 Office  
MDOT State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street,  
Mail Stop P-601  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Comments on the JPA may be given at the public hearings. They also can be mailed or emailed to the addresses below and **MUST REFERENCE** application NAB2018-02152.

**USACE - Baltimore District**

ATTN: Mr. Jack Dinne  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
[john.j.dinne@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.j.dinne@usace.army.mil)

**MDE - Wetlands and Waterways Program**

ATTN: Mr. Steve Hurt  
1800 Washington Blvd. Suite 4300  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
[MDE.SHAprojects@maryland.gov](mailto:MDE.SHAprojects@maryland.gov)

Comments on the DEIS and JPA will be accepted from July 10 through 11:59 PM on October 8, 2020. All comments received, regardless of method of submission, will be given equal consideration. All substantive comments received or postmarked by the end of the comment period will be responded to in preparation of the Final EIS.

Comments received or postmarked after the close of the comment period will be reviewed and considered to the extent practicable.

Hard copies are available for viewing at 21 locations. Call 833-858-5960 or check the website, [495-270-p3.com/DEIS](https://495-270-p3.com/DEIS), to find a location near you.

**Scan to view environmental documents**



## PRIVATE-SECTOR TEAMS NAMED TO SHORTLIST FOR I-495 & I-270 P3 PROGRAM PHASE 1

On July 17, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announced a shortlist of highly qualified private-sector teams eligible to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) in early 2021 to be the developer responsible for designing, building, financing, operating and maintaining managed lanes for the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Phase 1. The teams submitted a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in May 2020 expressing interest in becoming the Phase I Developer.

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## P3 PROGRAM PHASE 1 PRIVATE-SECTOR TEAMS NAMED TO SHORTLIST (continued)

The Phase 1 Developer will be a strategic partner to provide preliminary design, stakeholder engagement, and other predevelopment activities that will ultimately lead to designing, building, financing, operating and maintaining managed lanes for the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Phase 1.

MDOT and MDTA plan to select a preferred Phase Developer and recommend a Phase 1 P3 Agreement to the Maryland Board of Public Works for its review and approval in late Spring or early Summer 2021.



Phase 1 of the P3 Program would improve I-495 from the vicinity of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia, across and including the American Legion Bridge to the I-270 west spur and I-270 from I-495 to I-70.

## TRANSIT WORK GROUP EXPLORES BENEFITS OF MANAGED LANES

After a year of collaborative discussion between local jurisdictions and regional agencies, MDOT SHA released the Transit Service Coordination Report outlining potential regional transit service improvements and ridesharing opportunities that are possible if managed lanes are built along the I-495 and I-270 corridors.

The report is the collaborative product of the Transit Work Group (TWG). Convened in May 2019 with county, state, and federal transit agencies, the TWG explored how managed lanes on I-495 and I-270 could complement and benefit local transit agencies in the National Capital Region. Particularly exciting is the potential for new commuter bus service that could connect Frederick to Gaithersburg, Bethesda to Tysons Corner, and New Carrollton to National Harbor. TWG members also shared excitement about their work and the report's findings.

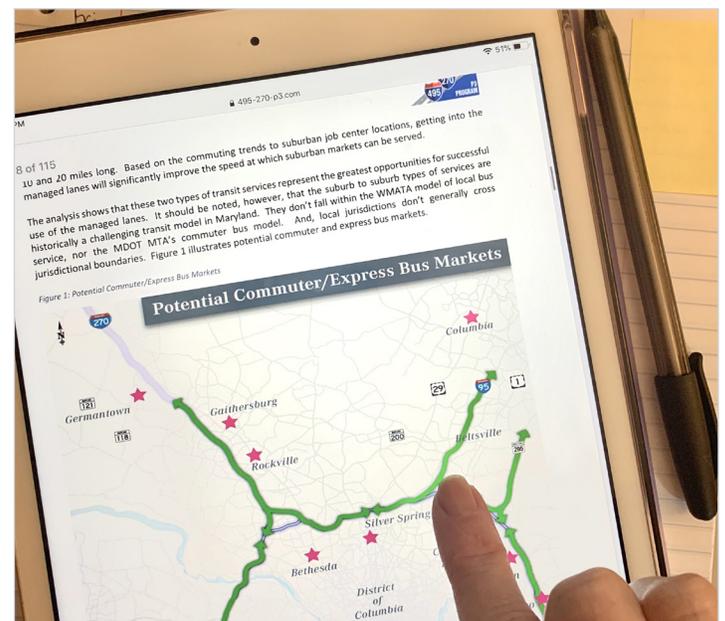
"We expect the managed lanes will provide faster and more dependable travel times between the City of Frederick and Bethesda," said Ron Burns, Transportation Engineer Manager for Frederick County. "This will especially help speed up the MDOT MTA's commuter buses and create even greater demand to our well-used routes. Having expanded commuter bus and an all-day bus service connecting to Metrorail at Shady Grove will be important to relieving the congestion along I-270 and will provide meaningful and much-needed daily connections with the rest of the DC region for the citizens of the City of Frederick and the rest of Frederick County."

"The Transit Work Group performed a comprehensive review, including regional travel patterns and population trends," said Bruce Gartner, Administrator of Howard County's Office of Transportation. "They listened to us and developed a series of potential new public transit route concepts that could enhance and support ongoing transit investments. Howard County is highly interested in advancing opportunities to connect to Montgomery

County's new Flash 29 BRT service and is supportive of efforts by Montgomery County and the state to improve reliable transit service between Columbia and Bethesda."

Additional local TWG members included representatives from Frederick, Prince George's, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Charles counties. Other agency and stakeholder groups on the TWG included the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and MDOT including MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) and MDOT SHA.

Visit the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program's Transit Benefits page at [495-270-P3.com/transit-benefits](https://495-270-p3.com/transit-benefits) and read the [Transit Service Coordination Report](#) to learn more.



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

I-495 & I-270 P3 Office  
707 North Calvert Street  
Mail Stop P-601  
Baltimore, MD 21202

## STAY CONNECTED

Visit the website at [495-270-P3.com](http://495-270-P3.com)

Submit a comment online or by mail to:  
**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**State Highway Administration**  
**I-495 & I-270 P3 Office**

**707 North Calvert Street**  
**Mail Stop P-601**  
**Baltimore, MD 21202**

Email the P3 Program at [495-270-P3@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:495-270-P3@mdot.maryland.gov)

Call the P3 Program toll free at **833-858-5960**

Sign up for email notifications at [495-270-p3.com](http://495-270-p3.com)