



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act- *de minimis* Finding

MD 32: Day Road to West Friendship Road

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is considering safety and spot improvements along MD 216 from Day Road West Friendship Road. Portions of the project area are adjacent to the Hugh Thomas Wildlife Farm.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROJECT

Why is this work necessary and what improvements are proposed?

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic safety by widening the existing roadway to accommodate turning lanes and acceleration lanes.

The proposed work will include constructing: a continuous center turn lane throughout most of the project area; right turn lanes for traffic most north on MD 32 onto Day and W. Friendship Roads; and acceleration lanes for traffic exiting Day and W. Friendship Roads onto MD 32 North. In addition, SHA will also be constructing stormwater facilities at various locations within the project area to address drainage concerns brought on by the increase in roadway width.

Why are comments being requested?

Section 6009(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) allows the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on protected resources. 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 official(s) 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?

Relocation of a traffic signal at MD 201 and the park entrance will require fee simple right-of-way from the Fletcher's Field Park, owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Although the right-of-way required from the recreation area is considered a "use" as defined by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), 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 notifying the public that it will request the Federal Highway Administration make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). M-NCPPC, as officials with jurisdiction, concurred with the *de minimis* finding on March 28th, 2013. The public is requested to provide comments on this finding.

Do You Have Additional Questions or Comments?

Please contact Mr. Vivian Berra-Figuero, SHA Project Manager, (410) 545-8852 or toll-free (866) 462-0020 or Mr. William N. Tardy, SHA Environmental Manager, (410) 545-8565 or toll-free (866) 527-0502, www.roads.maryland.gov.