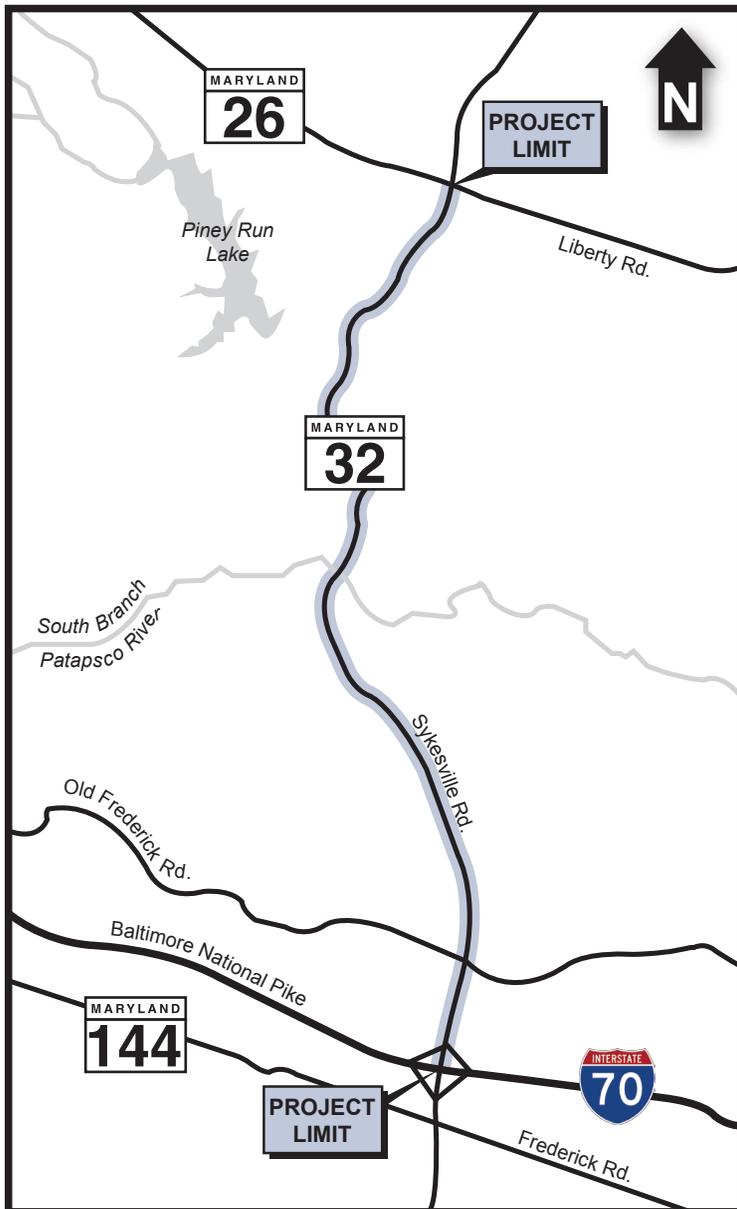


PROJECT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2016

SHA INITIATES MD 32 PLANNING STUDY

The Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA), working cooperatively with Carroll and Howard counties, has undertaken the MD 32 Planning Study, which focuses on MD 32 from I-70 in Howard County to just north of MD 26 (Liberty Road) in Carroll County. The study will assess the area's transportation needs and develop concepts for short-term improvements, as well as a long-term transportation vision for the MD 32 Corridor. A final report is expected in Fall 2016.

MD 32 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY PROJECT LIMITS



STUDY GOALS

As the primary north-south roadway for adjacent neighborhoods and the communities of West Friendship, Sykesville and Eldersburg, MD 32 is an important thoroughfare for businesses, residents and commuters within Howard and Carroll counties, linking them to I-70 and the Baltimore-Washington region. Traffic volumes have increased along MD 32, so that the roadway and intersections can no longer efficiently meet the needs of some of the surrounding areas.

The goal of the MD 32 Planning Study is to develop a long-term vision to manage future traffic volumes, address short-term safety and operational deficiencies along with advancing economic development opportunities. The study will recommend enhanced transportation network connectivity, assess pedestrian and bicyclist needs, and evaluate ways in which access to homes and businesses is provided. The team will analyze the impacts that those improvements are likely to have on existing development and environmental resources along MD 32 to identify potential areas of conflict between resources.

STUDY DETAILS

The MD 32 study has received funding for a planning study only. It is not funded for any project development phase (National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Location Approval, Design Phase, Right-of-Way Phase, and Construction Phase). The Planning Study includes agency and public involvement, the identification of transportation needs, reasonable transportation concepts, and the identification of potential social, economic, and natural environmental impacts. The final product, a Planning Study Report, will recommend elements of this corridor to move forward in the SHA project development process.

The MD 32 Planning Study is being conducted utilizing the Federal Highway Administration's Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Guidelines. PEL represents a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that considers environmental, community and economic goals early in the transportation planning process. Should a more detailed study be needed as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, the PEL guidelines allow for the use of information, analysis and products developed during this planning study to be used in the NEPA environmental review process.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

MD 32 has evolved from a rural two-lane roadway into a major roadway that supports residents in Howard County and commercial and residential growth in Carroll County. At the southern end, MD 32 is a four-lane open-section roadway from the I-70 interchange to the intersection with MD 99 (Old Friendship Road). MD 32 then transitions to a three-lane section with a center turn lane from MD 99 to north of Amberwoods Way. Continuing north, MD 32 is a two-lane, open-section roadway for a short section to Day Road. MD 32 continues as a three lane section from Day Road to West Friendship Road, just south of the county line. MD 32 continues north as a two lane roadway with turn lanes and other capacity improvements at key intersections until it reaches the intersection with Piney Ridge Parkway/MacBeth Way where it becomes a four-lane divided, closed-section roadway to the intersection with MD 26.

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR SURVEY — WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

SHA is conducting a community survey to include the ideas and recommendations of those who live, work, worship, attend school, shop, and commute through this area. To meet the growing and often competing needs along the roadway, the study team will strive to incorporate those diverse needs into a solution or set of solutions that will guide the evolution of the roadway to a unified, safe, and appropriate level of improvement. This effort will also include review of properties within the MD 32 corridor to determine whether any are currently listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by visiting MD32Survey.com.

NEXT STEPS

- Evaluate survey comments (*Spring 2016*)
- Conduct informational meeting to present study for public feedback (*Spring 2016*)
- Complete Planning Study Report (*Fall 2016*)

MD 32 Planning Study from I-70 to MD 26 Carroll and Howard Counties



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

We want to hear from you. Here's how you can get involved in the study and stay updated as we move forward:

- Visit MD32survey.com to take the online survey. Your comments will help us better understand the study area, your community, and your concerns.
- Add your name and address and/or your email address to the bottom of the attached survey to receive future project updates and announcements.
- Come to our public meeting. We will send you announcements and advertise in local newspapers. Look at the project schedule in this newsletter for a general timeframe for the upcoming meeting.
- Call us. To speak to the SHA Consultant Study Manager, contact Jane Wagner at 410-545-8050, toll-free at 1-800-548-5026, or jwagner@sha.state.md.us. The study team is available to meet with businesses, homeowners associations, and other groups as the project moves forward.
- For more information on this study, visit our project website at: roads.maryland.gov and click on Projects, Projects and Studies Page, Select SHA Projects Page, Select a County. Then select Howard or Carroll County, Pre-Construction and MD 32 Sykesville Road.

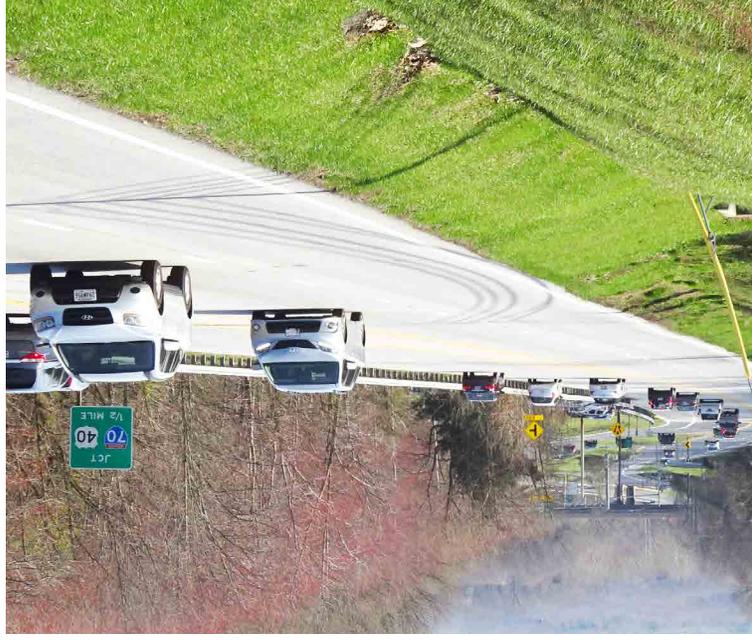
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SECTIONS OF MD 32 IN CARROLL AND HOWARD COUNTIES