



# Attend the Public Workshop!

Tuesday, June 17, 2014, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM  
James Hubert Blake High School cafeteria  
300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

## Next Steps

- Conduct Informational Workshop .....June 17, 2014
- Update Environmental Inventories and Existing Conditions ..... Spring/Summer 2014
- Refine Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study .....Fall 2014
- Present Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study at Public Workshop ..... Fall 2014/Winter 2015
- Conduct Detailed Engineering and Environmental Studies ..... Summer/Fall 2015
- Conduct Location/Design Public Hearing ..... Winter 2016
- Obtain Agency Concurrence on SHA's Selected Alternative..... Fall 2017
- Receive Location/Design Approvals ..... Winter 2018

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor  
James T. Smith, Jr., Secretary  
Melinda B. Peters, Administrator



Maryland Department of Transportation  
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707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



## MD 28/MD 198 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

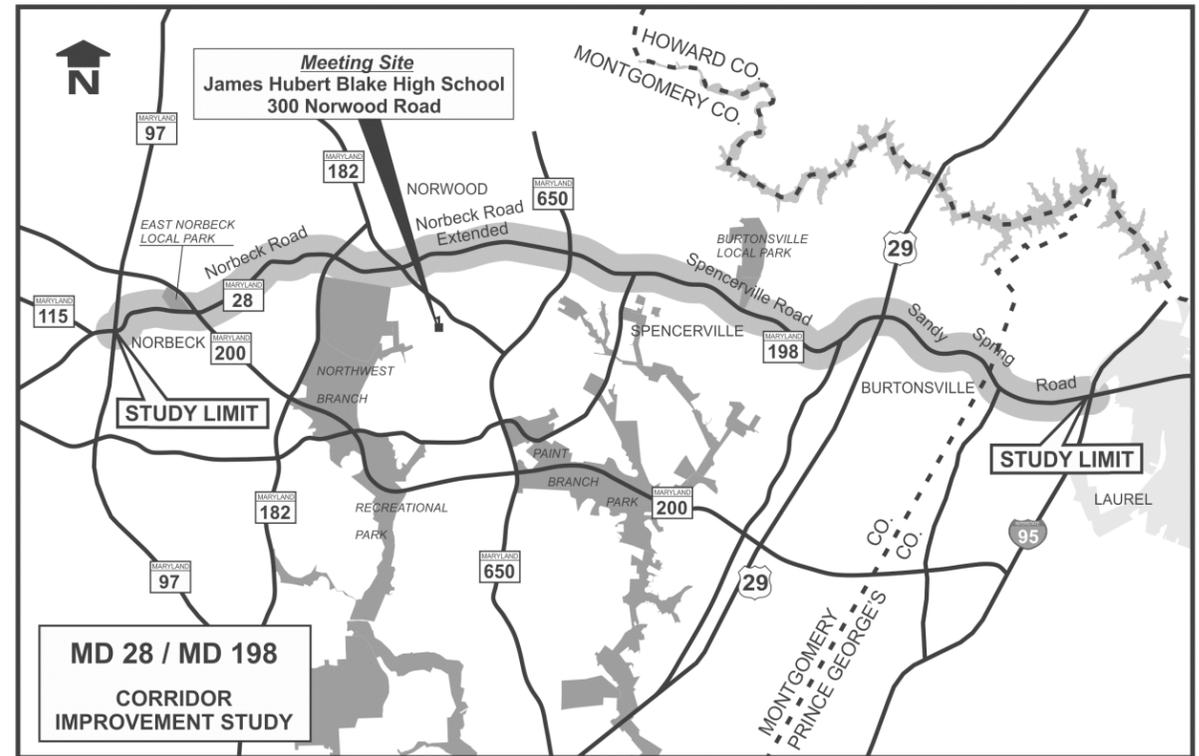


## PROJECT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2014

### MD 28/MD 198 Improvement Study Moves Forward/Informational Workshop Scheduled

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has resumed a project planning study to evaluate improvements along the MD 28 (Norbeck Road)/MD 198 (Spencerville/Sandy Spring Road) corridor in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The project is located between MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) and I-95 and covers a distance of approximately 10.5 miles. The MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study, which began in July 2001, was put on-hold in 2009 due to the economic downturn. The study resumed in September 2013 as a result of funding being made available under the Maryland Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013.

An Informational Workshop has been scheduled for **Tuesday, June 17, 2014, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, in the James Hubert Blake High School cafeteria, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905.**



### Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of the Informational Workshop is to notify interested persons that the project planning study has resumed, review the project history, list changes in the study area, outline the project purpose and need, and obtain input from the public regarding the project purpose and need and potential corridor improvement features.

The workshop will be conducted in an interactive open house format that allows attendees to conduct self-paced reviews of project information. Maps and other exhibits depicting aspects of the project will be on display, and team members will be available to respond to project-related questions and comments. **There will be no formal presentation.**

## Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the study is to:

- Improve local traffic safety and operations for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians traveling along the MD 28/MD 198 corridor and across intersecting roads while managing roadway access; and,
- Preserve the rural and suburban quality of life by addressing localized traffic issues, while considering local planning visions and state growth policies for communities along the corridor.

After reviewing recent traffic volume, operation, and crash data, the MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study team updated the original Purpose and Need Statement. SHA is coordinating these changes with regulatory agencies. The opening of the Intercounty Connector (ICC/MD 200) west of I-95 has reduced current traffic volumes at each end of the MD 28/MD 198 corridor and localized traffic operation levels of service along portions of the corridor are projected to decrease by 2040.

## Updating Environmental Inventories

The project team is updating inventories of environmental resources originally developed in the early 2000s and coordinating with regulatory agencies to determine new inventory needs that will address regulations enacted since the last environmental evaluations were conducted. During spring and summer 2014, SHA personnel and representatives will be conducting field reviews throughout the study area to update resource data for the environmental technical studies.

## Alternatives Previously Evaluated

SHA presented the previously evaluated corridor improvement alternatives at the 2008 Informational Workshop. Those alternatives include:

**Previous Alternative 1 (No-Build)** – Includes minor improvements as part of normal maintenance and safety improvements and is used as a baseline for comparison with the Build Alternatives.

**Previous Alternative 2 (Transportation Systems Management)** – Consists of spot improvements throughout the corridor that address concerns at specific locations or segments of the roadway but would not increase roadway capacity.

**Previous Alternative 3 (Master Plan Features)** – Improves the MD 28/MD 198 corridor to provide roadway features outlined in locally adopted master plans. Under those plans, the corridor would become a four-lane divided roadway in Montgomery County and a six-lane divided roadway in Prince George's County.

Options to these alternatives included the placement of roundabouts and the realignment of shared-use paths at specific locations along the corridor. SHA also considered an option to reduce new impervious surface (surface that rain/water won't penetrate) within the Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area, and several options that would avoid or reduce impacts on certain regulated resources.

## Community Suggestions Requested/How to Comment on the Project

The project team invites study area residents and business-owners to share their ideas about ways in which local travel in the corridor could be improved. We would like to hear opinions about frontage roads, medians, sidewalks, bicycle accommodations, additional lanes, roundabouts, landscaping, or other safety or traffic operation improvements.

We encourage your participation in the workshop and during the project planning process. A postage-paid mailer will be available at the workshop. **The project team will evaluate your comments and consider them as the project moves forward.**

## Project Mailing List

You may add your name to the project mailing list by completing the mailer or by submitting your information at the registration desk during the workshop. **If you have received this newsletter in the mail, you are already on the project mailing list.**

## Project Background / Study-Area Changes

SHA initiated the MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study in winter/spring 2001 and held an Informational Workshop in spring 2002 to present potential corridor improvements. The team selected the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS) in summer 2003 and coordinated project information from 2004 to 2008 with the ICC project team, concluding with an unpublished draft environmental document. In fall 2008, SHA conducted an Informational Workshop to present updated project information based on coordination with the ICC project team, and in 2009, the MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study was put on-hold due to the economic downturn.

When the project began in 2001, Norbeck Road Extended, between MD 182 and MD 650, was under design by Montgomery County; US 29 contained an at-grade intersection with MD 198; and the ICC project was not active. In December 2003, Norbeck Road Extended opened to traffic; in 2005, a grade-separated interchange was opened at US 29 and MD 198; and in November 2011, the ICC opened to traffic between I-370 and I-95. These roadway network changes have influenced travel along the MD 28/MD 198 corridor. In addition, parks along the corridor have expanded, including the East Norbeck Local Park and the future Llewellyn Fields Athletic Area.

## Continuing Public Involvement

We are committed to keeping you informed and involved during this process. To share your project-related questions and comments, or to add/remove your name, address, and/or email address to/from the project mailing list, please contact Ms. Danielle Black, Project Manager, at the following address, email, or phone numbers:

Ms. Danielle Black, Project Manager  
Project Management Division  
Maryland State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop C-301  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
410-545-8516 or toll-free 1-800-548-5026  
**dblack@sha.state.md.us**

The project team is available to meet with businesses, homeowners associations, and other groups upon request as the project moves forward. For more information about this project, please visit our website at [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov) and click on **Projects & Studies, Transportation Projects Page, Montgomery County or Prince George's County, MD 28 (Norbeck Road) / MD 198 (Spencerville Road)** or use the QR Code on this page.

**The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1.** Persons requiring assistance to participate in the Informational Workshop (an interpreter for hearing/speech difficulties or assistance with the English language) should contact Ms. Black by June 10, 2014.

