

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:

- Fill out and mail the attached postage-paid 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 meetings. We will send you announcements and advertise in local newspapers. Look at the project schedule in this newsletter for general timeframes for upcoming meetings.
- Call us. To speak to the SHA Project Manager, contact Bill Carver at 410-545-8515, toll-free at 1-800-548-5026, or wcarver@sha.state.md.us. The project team is available to meet with businesses, homeowners associations, and other groups as the project moves forward.
- For more information on this project, visit our project website at: www.roads.maryland.gov and click on **Projects and Studies, Transportation Projects Page, Select a County**. Then select **Prince George's County, Pre-Construction and MD 223, Piscataway Road**.



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link to project page

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MD 223 Corridor Planning Study from MD 4 to Steed Road

PROJECT NEWSLETTER • FALL 2013

SHA Initiates MD 223 Corridor Planning Study

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration and Prince George's County, has initiated a Corridor Planning Study to investigate transportation improvements to 7.7 miles of MD 223 (Woodyard Road/Piscataway Road) between MD 4 (Pennsylvania Avenue) and Steed Road in Prince George's County. The study will focus on establishing a balanced approach to transportation within the MD 223 corridor, incorporate proposed transit enhancements, and create a distinctive roadway character that meets the unique transportation needs along the corridor.

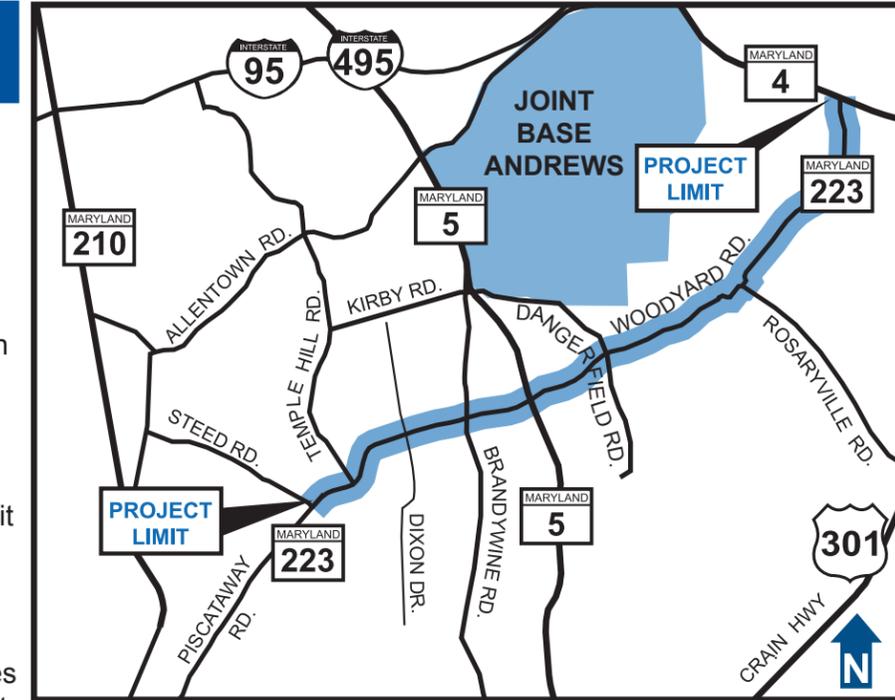
As the primary east-west roadway that serves neighborhoods to the south and west of Joint Base Andrews in south-central Prince George's County, MD 223 connects major Maryland routes, such as MD 4 and MD 5 (Branch Avenue). Roadway features vary throughout the project corridor. At the south end of the study area, MD 223 is a two-lane open-section roadway from Steed Road to Gwynndale Road and changes to a four-lane open-section roadway from Gwynndale Road to MD 5. MD 223 returns to a two-lane open-section roadway from MD 5 to MD 4.

The MD 223 project is funded for a Corridor Planning Study only; it is not funded for Project Planning, Final Design, Right of Way Acquisition, or Construction. The Corridor Planning Study includes agency and public involvement, the development of all reasonable concepts, and the identification of potential social, economic, and natural environmental impacts. The final product, a Corridor Planning Study Report, will recommend elements of this corridor to move forward in the SHA project development process.

Study Goals

The goal of the MD 223 Corridor Planning Study is to develop a long-term vision to manage future traffic volumes and address short-term safety and operational deficiencies. The project will recommend enhanced transportation network connectivity and improvements to pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit-user safety, and access to community resources. The study will also consider 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 223 to identify potential areas of conflict between resources.

Recent development along MD 223 and within the surrounding area has greatly contributed to increased travel demand and congestion on MD 223. Vehicular congestion and delays are expected to worsen as development within Prince George's County and along MD 223 continues. Crash statistics from 2009- 2011 indicate that left-turn crashes are higher than the statewide average for roadways of similar design. Other types of crashes are significantly higher than the statewide average for similar roadways.



Traffic Level of Service (LOS)

SHA conducted a LOS analysis for existing (2013) and forecasted (2025 and 2040) No-Build conditions along MD 223. LOS is a measure of the congestion experienced by drivers and ranges from “A” (free flow, with little or no congestion) to “F” (failure, with stop-and-go conditions). LOS is normally computed for the peak hours of a typical weekday, with LOS D (approaching unstable flow) or better generally considered acceptable for intersections or highways in urban and suburban areas.

Traffic signals are located on MD 223 at intersections with major side streets. Traffic projections for 2025 and 2040 indicate that, without improvements along MD 223, several intersections will fail. Motorists can expect stop-and-go traffic and long delays at signalized intersections. The increased traffic and congestion would further contribute to the deterioration of safe driving conditions along portions of MD 223. Making left turns across traffic, and entering MD 223 from driveways would become increasingly difficult.

Signalized Intersection Level Of Service (LOS)	AM Peak Hour			PM Peak Hour		
	2013	2025	2040	2013	2025	2040
MD 223 at Marlboro Pike	C	D	E	D	D	E
MD 223 at Dower House Road	C	D	D	C	D	D
MD 223 at Rosaryville Road*	D	D	F	E	E	F
MD 223 at Old Alexandria Ferry Road/Dangerfield Road	B	B	C	C	D	E
MD 223 at Mike Shapiro Drive	B	A	A	B	A	A
MD 223 at MD 5	C	B	A	D	C	C
MD 223 at Clinton Plaza Shopping Entrance/Woody Terrace	B	A	B	B	B	C
MD 223 at Clinton Plaza Shopping Entrance / Pine View Lane	C	C	C	D	D	E
MD 223 at Old Branch Avenue / Brandywine Road	F	F	F	E	F	F
MD 223 at Temple Hill Road	C	B	B	D	E	F
MD 223 at Steed Road	C	D	F	B	C	D

Source: 2000 Highway Capacity Manual (HCM)

* 2013 assumes completed construction of MD 223 at Rosaryville Road and optimized signal timing for Rosaryville Road only.

Project Background

MD 223 has evolved from a rural two-lane roadway that served 1950s and 1960s communities like Ballard and Sherwood Forest into a major roadway that supports commercial and residential growth in Prince George's County. Large farms (including His Lordship's Kindness, an 18th century plantation) and tobacco barns in the study area reflect the historic importance of the county's role in tobacco production. The establishment of Andrews Air Force Base (now Joint Base Andrews) in the 1940s and the Maryland State Roads Commission's (now SHA) improvements to MD 5 led to an increase in suburban development. Today, the roadway and intersections can no longer meet the needs of some of the surrounding areas.

SHA has studied MD 223 two times since the early 1990s. A Project Planning Study included three intersections from Temple Hill Road to MD 5 that needed safety improvements. Although public opposition to that study led SHA to put the project on hold until 2007, SHA made improvements to two of the three intersections, separate from the Project Planning Study. In 2008, SHA evaluated potential improvements to safety and traffic operations along MD 223 from Steed Road to MD 5, but the study was put on hold because of the economic downturn. The study has been reinitiated as a Corridor Planning Study, which will evaluate a longer section of MD 223 and provide a wider range of concepts to address traffic and safety concerns.

Future Plans

SHA will review residential developments and other buildings along the MD 223 corridor to determine whether any are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In order to formulate a comprehensive vision for the MD 223 Corridor Planning Study, SHA needs to complete a 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.

Next Steps

- Evaluate survey comments
Winter 2013-2014
- Develop a range of concepts
Winter/Spring 2014
- Conduct informational meeting to introduce concepts/receive public comments
Spring 2014
- Complete Corridor Planning Study Report
Summer 2014



MD 223 Corridor Planning Study from MD 4 to Steed Road

Please help the project team understand the concerns of those who live/work in the project area by answering the following questions. Simply fold and seal the postage-paid survey before dropping it in the mail.

Please identify yourself (Circle Yes or No and fill in the blanks with the requested information):

Yes No I live/work in the project area (Where?) _____

Yes No I commute through the project area (At what times/how often?) _____

1. What transportation features along this section of MD 223 benefit you most? _____

2. What transportation features would you like included or enhanced along this section of MD 223 in the future? _____

3. What are the top issues that should be addressed by this project? (Circle Five)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| A. Bicycle travel | I. School bus stops/student safety |
| B. Community character/appearance | J. Speeding |
| C. Crossing/making turns onto or from MD 223 | K. Traffic congestion/delays |
| D. Drainage | L. Traffic safety |
| E. Lighting | M. Traffic signs/markings |
| F. Noise | N. Transit service/facilities |
| G. Parking | O. Truck traffic |
| H. Pedestrian access (sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.) | P. Visibility |
| | R. Other _____ |

Details: _____

4. What is the biggest problem you regularly experience on this section of MD 223? _____

5. Please identify any important natural or community resources in the MD 223 area.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Streams/Waterways | E. Places of Worship |
| B. Public Parks | F. Historic Buildings |
| C. Forest Areas/Significant Trees | G. Cultural Centers |
| D. Unmarked Grave Sites | H. Other _____ |

Details/Locations: _____

6. Which of the following potential impacts concerns you most? (Circle One)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Impacts on homes | D. Impacts on future traffic |
| B. Impacts on businesses | E. Other impacts _____ |
| C. Impacts on the natural environment | |

7. SHA's public involvement efforts are designed to include all members of the community. Please help us by identifying any groups in the corridor that may have special needs. (Circle all that apply and, if possible, include general locations.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. Limited English Ability: _____ | F. Transit-Dependent: _____ |
| B. Low-Income: _____ | G. Regular Bicycle Users: _____ |
| C. Minority: _____ | H. Pedestrians: _____ |
| D. Senior: _____ | I. Other: _____ |
| E. Disabled: _____ | |

8. What else should the project team know? _____

Please provide your name, address, and/or email address if you would like to be placed on the MD 223 Corridor Planning Study project mailing list for updates and announcements.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____