



# MD 4/Suitland Parkway Interchange



*Preliminary Design  
Details Inside!*



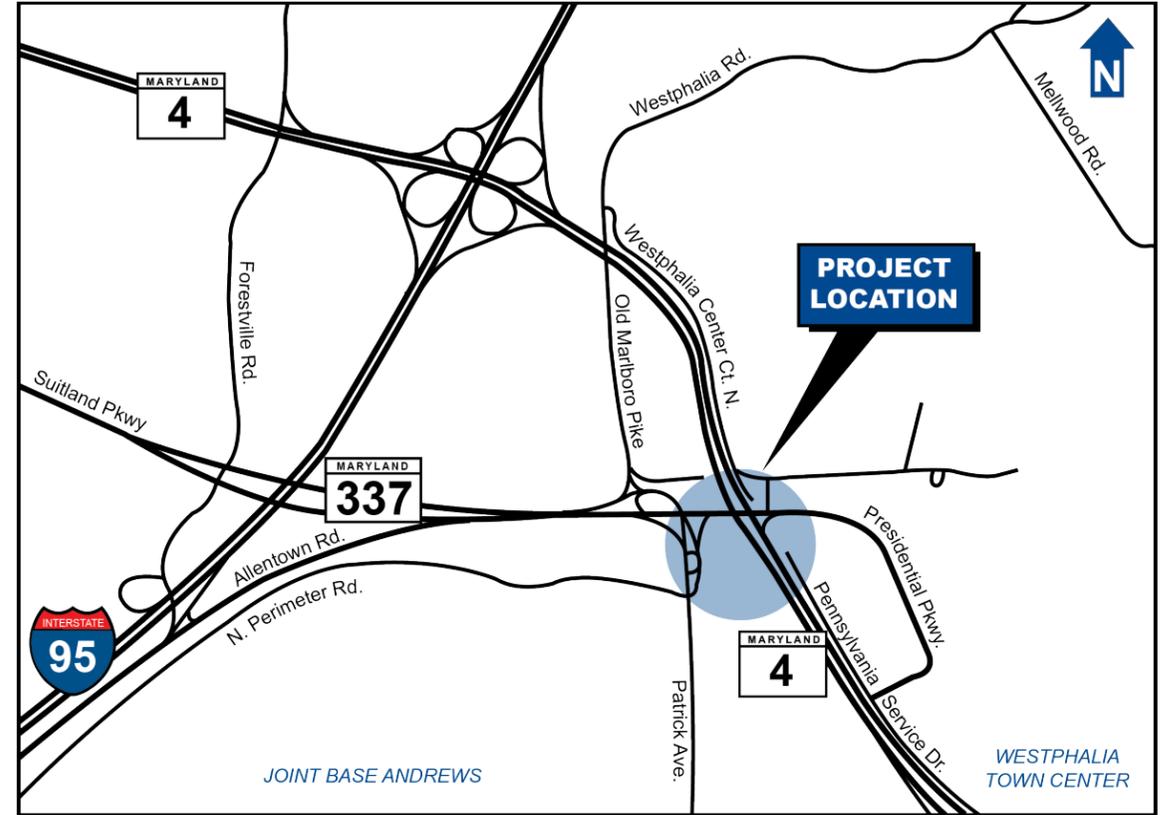
Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor  
James T. Smith, Jr., Secretary  
Melinda B. Peters, Administrator



## MD 4/Suitland Parkway Interchange



PROJECT NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2014



### Design of Interchange Continues

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) continues design work on the MD 4 (Pennsylvania Ave)/Suitland Parkway Interchange project. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide interested persons an update on the project, background information, purpose of the project, and schedule of upcoming milestones.

### Purpose and Need for the Interchange

The purpose of the project is to facilitate transportation improvements at the intersection of MD 4 and Suitland Parkway in Prince George's County. This project will increase roadway capacity to meet existing and future demands along the MD 4 corridor and address safety concerns. The project is needed because the corridor currently experiences excessive traffic congestion, which is projected to increase as future development increases trips along the corridor.

### Project Background

The MD 4 Corridor is highly congested and the rapid growth in the area continues to increase traffic. There are significant delays at many intersections along MD 4 for motorists planning to access or cross it, including Westphalia Road, Suitland Parkway, and Dower House Road. In 2000, after a study to identify solutions to the increasing congestion was completed, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved a plan to construct interchanges at each of these intersections. Interchanges at Dower House Road and Westphalia Road are not currently funded for design by SHA although Westphalia Road is being studied by private developers and Prince George's County as part of traffic mitigation for future developments. Only the interchange at MD 4 and Suitland Parkway is funded for design, construction, and right-of-way at this time.

## Current Design

An engineering study conducted in October 2004, found that changes in zoning by Prince George's County for the area surrounding the intersection of Suitland Parkway and MD 4 required revisions of the traffic forecast models used to design the selected interchange and roundabouts. Based on updated traffic projections engineers concluded the two-lane roundabout interchange design, selected in 2000, would not meet traffic demands during morning and evening peak travel hours and heavy congestion would still occur. Engineering analysis recommended design changes to better accommodate capacity needs.

The design was revised to a signalized interchange with a ramp for traffic to flow from northbound MD 4 to westbound Suitland Parkway. This project will also realign Presidential Parkway parallel to MD 4, as specified in the Prince George's County Master Plan. Designated entrance and exit ramps will facilitate movement between MD 4 and Suitland Parkway. A free-flowing ramp will be constructed to accommodate the heavy left-turn movement from northbound MD 4 to westbound Suitland Parkway. Additionally, SHA will improve adjacent service roads to support local access needs and the entrance and exit ramps to the Joint Base Andrews.

The following design elements are included in the current alternative:

- MD 4 will be lowered and Suitland Parkway will pass over MD 4 via an interchange;
- The existing signal on MD 4 will be eliminated;
- Access to southbound MD 4 from Old Marlboro Pike and to Old Marlboro Pike from southbound MD 4 will occur via a new ramp from the realigned Old Marlboro Pike, located north of Suitland Parkway;
- Utility relocations will be necessary, including the relocation of public utilities that are present along MD 4 and within the project limits;
- A bike/multi-use path connecting Presidential Parkway and developments north of the project with Old Marlboro Pike parallel to the westbound lanes of Suitland Parkway will be constructed.

## Project Delivery

The project will be delivered in stages. In fall 2014, SHA will advertise a project for clearing trees and brush along the east side of MD 4. SHA anticipates this work will be completed by early spring 2015. The second stage will involve utility relocation along the east side of MD 4. The third stage will be interchange construction which will begin in fall 2015 and will take approximately three to four years to complete, weather permitting.

## What to expect during construction?

The construction of the interchange will begin in fall 2015 and will involve significant changes to the traffic patterns along MD 4, Suitland Parkway, and adjacent roads. Motorists should anticipate traffic congestion, detours, and extended road closures. SHA will place temporary signs to advise motorists of changes to traffic patterns. Changes to traffic patterns will be posted on SHA's website and on variable message signs along the corridor. Motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes or transit if possible. SHA urges drivers to be vigilant and drive safely while traveling through this work zone and others throughout the state.

## Questions?

If you have questions or need additional information about this project, please contact:

**Mr. Moreshwar B. Kulkarni**, Project Manager  
 Maryland State Highway Administration  
 Office of Highway Development  
 707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop C-102  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
 Toll Free: 1-888-228-5003  
 E-mail: mkulkarni@sha.state.md.us  
**The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1.**

For more information, visit SHA's website [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov) and click on **Projects and Studies, SHA Projects Page**, Select a County, then select **Prince George's County, Pre-Construction and MD 4, Pennsylvania Avenue, Interchange at Suitland Parkway** or use QR Code.



## Renderings of Current Design



View from MD 4 looking southbound

