

## Project Status

The MD 4 – Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge Planning Study is partially funded for Project Planning only. It is not yet funded for Design, Right-of-Way, or Construction. The Project Planning phase includes the review of all reasonable alternatives, including the No-Build Alternative; the collection and evaluation of social, economic, and natural environmental factors, as well as agency and public involvement. Citizen involvement in the planning process is encouraged.

## Project Schedule

- Purpose and Need - *Summer 2007*
- Open House Workshop - *Fall 2007*
- Alternates Public Workshop - *Summer 2008*
- Location/Design Public Hearing - *Fall 2009*
- Location/Design Approval - *Winter 2011*

**Martin O'Malley**, Governor  
**Anthony Brown**, Lieutenant Governor  
**John D. Porcari**, Secretary  
**Neil J. Pedersen**, Administrator

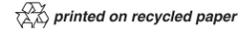
## Public Input is Important

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.
- Get on the project mailing list. Add your name and 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 newspapers. Refer to the project schedule in this newsletter for general timeframes for upcoming meetings.
- Log on to our Project Web Page at: [www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com)
- **Submit written comments/requests to:**  
 Ms. Felicia Alexander, Project Manager  
 State Highway Administration  
 P.O. Box 717, Mail Stop C-301  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717

To speak with members of the Project Team, please call toll free 1-800-548-5026 or email [faalexander@sha.state.md.us](mailto:faalexander@sha.state.md.us)

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# MD 4 - Thomas Johnson Bridge Planning Study



PROJECT NEWSLETTER • FALL 2007

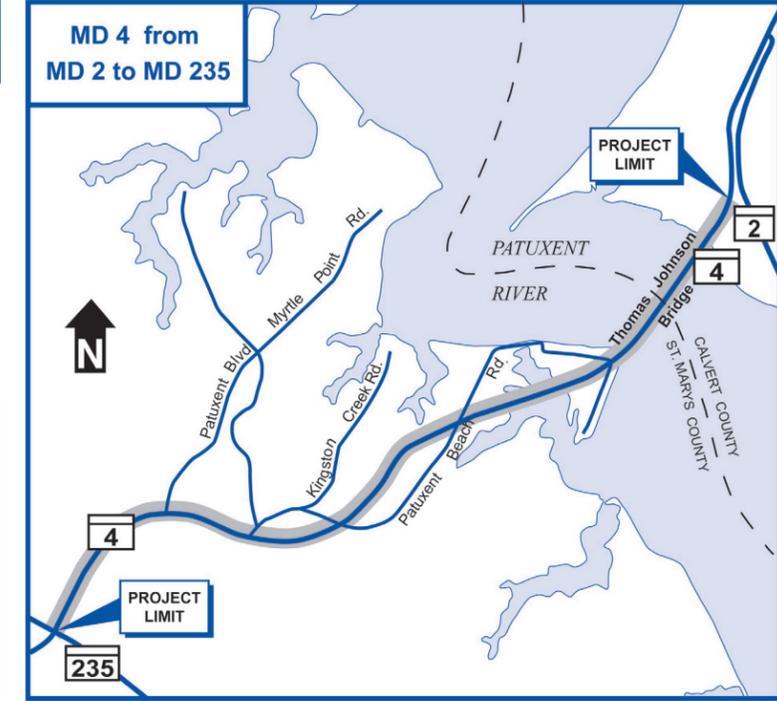
## SHA Launches MD 4 - Thomas Johnson Bridge Planning Study

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has initiated a project planning study to investigate transportation improvements to MD 4 from MD 2 at Solomons Island in Calvert County to MD 235 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

The study will focus on how best to ease growing congestion on the existing roadway network, while considering the needs of local communities and minimizing the project's impacts as much as possible.

### Meetings Scheduled

- WHAT:** Two Informational Open House sessions—one will be held in Calvert County and one in St. Mary's County.
- WHY:** These meetings will enable the public to learn more about the study.
- WHERE:** Dowell Elementary School (Calvert County) and Town Creek Elementary School (St. Mary's County).
- WHEN:** Calvert County— October 2, 2007  
 St. Mary's County— October 9, 2007 - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM.



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**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND**  
**PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING**  
 MS C-301  
 BOX 717  
 BALTIMORE, MD 21203-0717  
**ATTN: Felicia Alexander,**  
**SHA Project Manager**



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**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**State Highway Administration**  
 Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering  
 P.O. Box 717, Mail Stop C-301  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717



## Purpose & Need Preparation

At the start of any planning study, SHA develops a draft Purpose and Need Statement that is used as the foundation for all of the engineering and environmental studies that follow. The Purpose and Need Statement is a summary of the study area's needs in terms of traffic mobility, land use, and pedestrian and bicycle use. It is crucial to the success of this planning study that SHA's Purpose and Need Statement has a strong foundation based on input from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders of the MD 4 project area. Please review this summary and provide your input by completing the survey included in this newsletter, calling the study team, or sending written comments to SHA. The draft Purpose and Need Statement can be obtained by contacting the Project Manager at the address below.

## Project Description

The MD 4 - Thomas Johnson Bridge Planning Study corridor is a 2.9-mile Rural Arterial Roadway extending from the MD 2/MD 4 split at Solomons Island in Calvert County to MD 235 in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The existing MD 4 corridor consists of a two-lane roadway with 10-foot shoulders from MD 235 to the Thomas Johnson Bridge. The bridge typical section is two 12-foot lanes with two-foot shoulders. Once across the bridge, MD 4 becomes a two-lane facility with 10-foot shoulders to the MD 2/MD 4 split. Potential alternatives include dualizing MD 4 within the study limits, adding a parallel span to the existing bridge, and providing intersection improvements at MD 235. Improvements to MD 4 within the project area are included in SHA's long-range plan, the Highway Need Inventory (HNI), the 2004 Comprehensive Plan for Calvert County, the St. Mary's Growth Management Plan, and the 2006 St. Mary's County Transportation Plan.

## Purpose & Need Overview

The purpose of this project is to improve existing capacity and traffic operations as well as vehicle and pedestrian safety along MD 4, while supporting existing and planned development in the area. Existing and projected traffic volumes generated by rapid growth will result in additional congestion. Currently, the MD 4/MD 235 intersection has operational problems, and the bridge becomes a major bottleneck when crashes occur or maintenance is required on or near it.

## Growth and Development

The growth of numerous business and residential properties has already occurred within the vicinity of MD 4, yielding high traffic volumes and congestion, especially during peak periods. Current travel demand is already causing operational failure under existing roadway conditions as a result of the high traffic volumes generated by existing developments. Existing levels of congestion along the corridor will be exacerbated by planned developments, including St. Mary's Crossing and Wildewood Condos in St. Mary's County, and Lusby Commons, Lusby Hill, and the shopping center on the northwest corner of MD 760 at MD 765 in Calvert County.

## Traffic

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) AM and PM peak hour volumes were developed for the MD 4 study limits. Table 1 shows 2007 Existing and Projected 2030 No-Build AADT.

## Levels of Service

Planners often use a simple grading system, much like the one used in grade school, to characterize the operations at intersections. A grade or Level of Service (LOS) of "A" means there is no delay or congestion, while LOS "F" means the intersection is failing, with long delays and high levels of congestion. Table 2 shows examples of intersections within the study area. Several intersections are experiencing failing conditions and will continue to fail through traffic forecast year 2030.

Limits	2007 LOS		2030 LOS	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MD 4 Mainline (MD 235 to MD 2)	F	F	F	F
MD 4/MD 235 Intersection	F	E	F	F
MD 4/Patuxent Boulevard Intersection to Kingston Creek Road	F	E	F	F
MD 4/Kingston Creek Road Intersection	F	E	F	F

Table 2

**To Learn More** - For more information on this project, please visit the Maryland State Highway Administration's website at: [www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com)

Written comments/requests may be submitted to:

Ms. Felicia Alexander, Project Manager  
State Highway Administration  
P.O. Box 717, Mailstop C-301  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717

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Limits	2007 Volume	2030 Volume	Percent Growth
	Average Daily Traffic (Vehicles/Day)		
MD 235 (north of MD 4)	40,300	N/A	N/A
MD 235 (south of MD 4)	55,800	N/A	N/A
South of MD 235	17,000	18,600	9%
MD 235 to Patuxent Boulevard	28,300	35,200	24%
Patuxent Boulevard to Kingston Creek Road	27,900	33,600	20%
Kingston Creek Road to MD 2	27,000	32,500	20%

Table 1

## Safety

A total of 123 crashes occurred between 2003 and 2005 along the project corridor. Of these, 56 were injury crashes, 66 were property damage crashes, and one was a fatal crash. These crashes, which fluctuate between sideswipe angles, fixed-object crashes, and rear-end crashes, were significantly greater than the statewide average for similar roadways. From 2003 to 2004, the total number of crashes in the study area increased by 67 percent.



State Highway Administration



100 Years of Progress

# MD 4 - Thomas Johnson Bridge Planning Study



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**4**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Please assist the Project Team by answering the following questions. To return the survey, simply detach and fold before dropping it in the mail. All postage will be paid by the State Highway Administration.

### 1. What are the top three transportation issues in the project area? (Circle three)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. Too much traffic on MD 4             | E. Speeding                            |
| B. Traffic safety                       | F. Delays across Thomas Johnson Bridge |
| C. Delays at MD 235                     | G. Bicycle and pedestrian safety       |
| D. Delays at unsignalized intersections | H. Other: _____                        |

### 2. When is the most difficult time to travel in the project area? (Circle one)

- A. Morning rush hour
- B. Evening rush hour
- C. Weekends
- D. All of the above

### 3. What improvements do you think would help most? (Circle one)

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| A. Intersection/traffic signal improvements   | D. Do Nothing    |
| B. Widening of Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge | E. Other : _____ |
| C. Reconstruction of certain segments of MD 4 |                  |

### 4. What types of "impacts" concern you most? (Circle one)

- |                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| A. Impacts to homes and businesses    | D. Noise         |
| B. Impacts to the natural environment | E. Other : _____ |
| C. Impacts during construction        |                  |

### 5. Please provide your comments on the Purpose and Need Overview:

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### 6. Please provide additional information about the study area (attach additional sheets(s) if needed):

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**Project Mailing List** - Please provide your name and address if you would like to be placed on the project mailing list for updates and announcements. *\*If you prefer to receive these items by email, please provide that address, instead.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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