

Project Status

The MD 198 Project Planning Study is funded for Project Planning only. It is not yet funded for Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, 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, and agency and public involvement. Citizen involvement in the planning process is encouraged.

Project Schedule

- Open House Workshop - *Wednesday, November 7, 2007*
- Alternates Public Workshop - *June 2008*
- Location/Design Public Hearing - *Fall 2009*
- Location/Design Approval - *Winter 2009/2010*

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

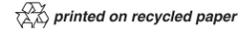
Public Input is Important

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
- **Submit written comments/requests to:**
 Ms. Kameel Holmes, Project Manager
 Maryland 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 kholmes@sha.state.md.us

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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: Ms. Kameel Holmes,
SHA Project Manager



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WHAT: Informational Open House to enable the public to learn more about the study.

WHEN:

Wednesday,
 November 7, 2007
 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

WHERE:

Meade High School
 1100 Clark Rd
 Fort Meade, MD 20755



MD 198 Project Planning Study

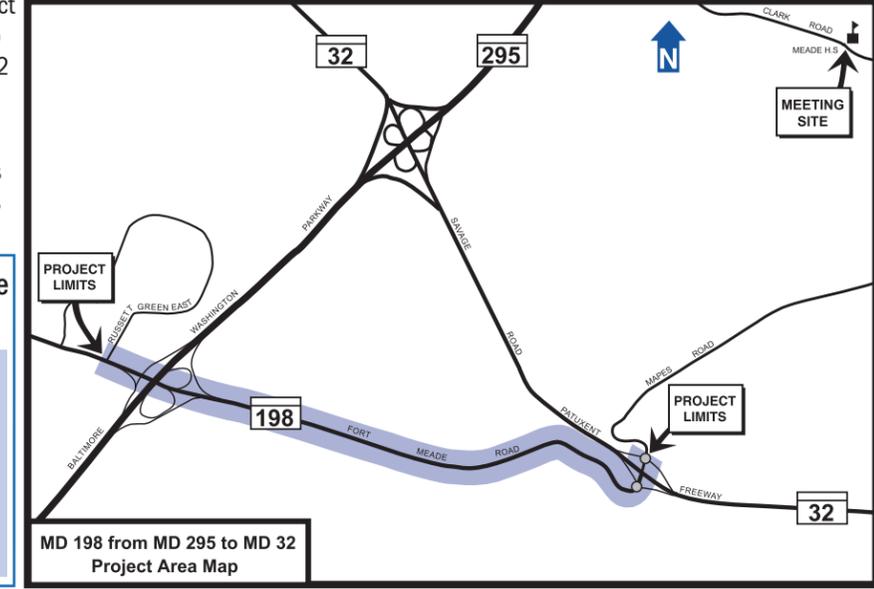


PROJECT NEWSLETTER • FALL 2007

SHA Launches MD 198 Project Planning Study

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has initiated a project planning study to investigate transportation improvements to MD 198 from west of MD 295 at Russett Green East to MD 32 in Anne Arundel 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.



MD 198 from MD 295 to MD 32
 Project Area Map

Maryland Department of Transportation
SHA
 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 has a strong foundation based on input from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders of the MD 198 project area. Please review this summary below and provide your input by completing the survey included in this newsletter, calling the study team, or sending written comments to SHA.

Project Description

The MD 198 Project Planning Study will evaluate improvements along a 3.5-mile portion of MD 198 extending from just west of MD 295, at Russett Green East, to MD 32 in Anne Arundel County. The existing MD 198 corridor consists of a six-lane roadway west of MD 295, a four-lane roadway through the MD 295 interchange area, a two-lane roadway with 10-foot shoulders and no access controls through most of the study area, a roundabout at Airfield Road, and a four-lane roadway from Airfield Road to the MD 32 interchange. The MD 32 interchange is a diamond interchange, with roundabouts at either end of a three-lane bridge that carries traffic over MD 32. The limits of SHA maintenance end just east of the interchange, approaching the gate into Fort George G. Meade Military Reservation (Fort Meade).

Potential alternatives include dualizing MD 198 within the study limits, including bicycle and pedestrian access, combining access points, and providing intersection improvements along the corridor.

Purpose & Need Overview

The purpose of the project is to improve existing capacity and traffic operations, enhance access to Fort Meade, and increase vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian safety along MD 198, while supporting existing and planned development in the area. MD 198 provides direct access to Fort Meade from MD 32, MD 295, and points south and west of the study area.

Growth and Development

The area around Fort Meade is one of the fastest growing areas of Anne Arundel County. Fort Meade's workforce comprises more than 39,000 military, civilian, and contractor personnel. As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, Fort Meade and the surrounding area are expected to experience considerable growth. By 2010, approximately 5,300 additional new on-post jobs are expected to be relocated

to Fort Meade, along with 7,500 new jobs at the National Security Agency. As many as 20,000 private sector jobs—primarily in the defense and support industries—are anticipated both on and in the vicinity Fort Meade. Over 30,000 additional direct and indirect jobs forecasted to locate in the region to support the influx of growth will create a demand for office space, housing, and commercial services throughout western Anne Arundel County and in nearby areas of Prince George's and Howard counties.

In addition to jobs, the study area is expected to experience significant increases in population, housing, commercial activity, and vehicular traffic as a result of BRAC. The MD 198 Project Planning Study will address projected operational and safety deficiencies resulting from the expected growth.

Traffic

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) AM and PM peak-hour volumes were developed for the MD 198 Project Planning Study. Table 1 shows 2006 Existing and Projected 2030 No-Build AADT.

MD 198	2006 Existing Volume	2030 No-Build Volume
	Average Daily Traffic	
MD 198 West of MD 295	43,100	57,750
MD 198 : MD 295 to Airfield Road	23,950 - 21,750	41,300 - 38,875
Mapes Road North of MD 32	7,900	28,200
MD 295 South of MD 198	93,600	122,500
MD 32 East of MD 198	58,500	76,600
MD 32 West of MD 198	46,150	63,425

Table 1

Levels of Service (LOS)

Planners often use a grading system, much like the one used in 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 the current LOS at intersections within the study area. Several intersections are experiencing failing conditions and will continue to fail through traffic forecast year 2030, as shown in Table 3.

Safety

A total of 155 crashes were reported between 2003 and 2005 within the limits of the crash analysis, resulting in one fatality and 87 injuries. The majority of reported crashes, including the one fatality, occurred at the western end of the study area, from the Clay Road/Russett Green West intersection through the MD 295 interchange area, where traffic volumes are much higher.

To Learn More — For more information on this project, please visit the Maryland State Highway Administration's website at: www.marylandroads.com

Written comments/requests may be submitted to:

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

To speak with members of the Project Team, please call toll-free 1-800-548-5026 or email kholmes@sha.state.md.us

Existing 2006 Level of Service (LOS)		
Intersection of MD 198 and (from west to east)	AM LOS	PM LOS
Market Place Corridor/ Russett Green East	B	C
Tischer Entrance	F	F
Ourisman Entrance	F	F
Arundel Gateway	A	B
MD 216B (Old Portland Road)	E	D
Welch's Court	E	F
Gate Access (Children's Center)	B	D
Bald Eagle Drive	A	F
Airfield Road	A	A
MD 32 Eastbound Ramps	A	A
MD 32 Westbound Ramps	B	A
MD 198, MD 295 to MD 32	E	E

Table 2

2030 No-Build Level of Service (LOS)		
Intersection of MD 198 and (from west to east)	AM LOS	PM LOS
Market Place Corridor/ Russett Green East	D	F
Tischer Entrance	F	F
Ourisman Entrance	F	F
Arundel Gateway	C	C
MD 216B (Old Portland Road)	F	F
Welch's Court	F	F
Gate Access (Children's Center)	C	F
Bald Eagle Drive	C	F
Airfield Road	B	C
MD 32 Eastbound Ramps	F	A
MD 32 Westbound Ramps	F	F
MD 198, MD 295 to MD 32	F	F

Table 3

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 198	F. Speeding
B. Traffic safety	G. Bicycle and pedestrian safety
C. Delays at MD 295	H. Other: _____
D. Delays at MD 32	
E. Delays at unsignalized intersections	

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

A. Morning rush hour	D. Do Nothing
B. Evening rush hour	E. Other: _____
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 MD 198	E. Other: _____
C. Reconstruction of certain segments of MD 198	

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:**

6. **What else should the Project Team know about the study area? (attach additional sheets(s) if needed)**

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

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