

For the US 301 Waldorf project, there will be many opportunities to participate. Public meetings will be scheduled at major milestones to provide the latest information and receive feedback. The Project Team welcomes the opportunity to meet with interested groups at any time. An excellent and convenient source for project information is the project website, [www.US301Waldorf.org](http://www.US301Waldorf.org). In addition, meeting announcements and periodic updates will be sent to those on the Project Mailing List. Please return the postage-paid survey in this newsletter to add your name to the mailing list. We also welcome your comments on the project schedule and plan for agency and public coordination.

Written comments and requests may be submitted to Mr. Steven I. Hawtof, P.E., Project Manager at [shawtof@sha.state.md.us](mailto:shawtof@sha.state.md.us) or Ms. Allison E. Grooms, Environmental Manager at [agrooms@sha.state.md.us](mailto:agrooms@sha.state.md.us), Project Planning Division, Mail Stop C-301, State Highway Administration, P.O. Box 717, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717. Both can also be reached by calling toll free at 1-800-548-5026.

## Project Status

The US 301 Waldorf Area Project is funded for project planning only, which means it is not yet funded for design and construction. The project planning phase

includes agency and public involvement; the review of all reasonable alternatives, including the no-build alternative; and an evaluation of social, economic, cultural and natural environmental resource impacts. It concludes with the receipt of location and design approvals if a build alternative is selected. As a part of the public involvement activities, and consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, comments are invited regarding historic properties in the project area, including historic standing structures and archeological resources. A number of these resources which are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are located in the project corridor.

## Proposed Schedule

Purpose and Need Concurrence: Spring 2006  
 Development of Preliminary Alternatives: Summer 2006  
 Alternates Public Workshop: Fall 2006  
 Evaluation of Detailed Alternatives: Spring 2007  
 Public Hearing: Fall 2007

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.**, Governor  
**Michael S. Steele**, Lieutenant Governor  
**Robert L. Flanagan**, Secretary  
**Neil J. Pedersen**, Administrator

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# US 301 Waldorf Area Project

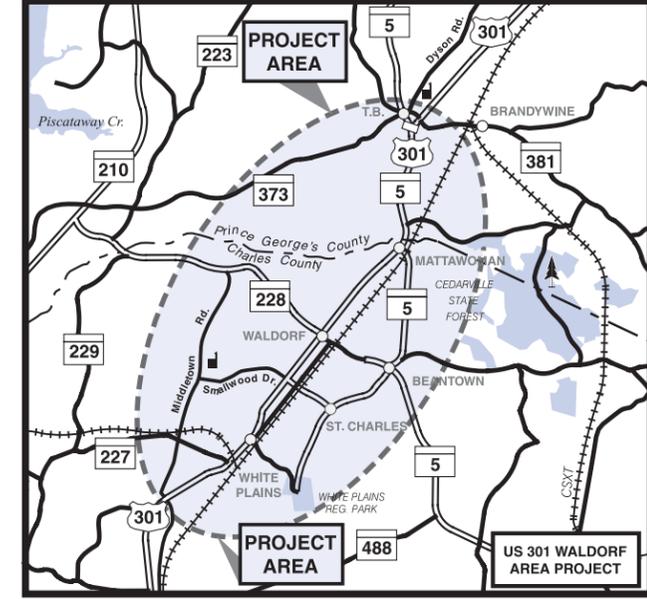


PROJECT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2006

## New US 301 Project Launched

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has initiated a project to look at transportation improvements in the US 301 Waldorf area. The project area is from the MD 5 and US 301 interchange in Prince George's County to the US 301 intersection with Washington Avenue and Turkey Hill Road in Charles County.

The new project will build upon earlier transportation studies including the recent US 301 Southern Corridor Transportation Study that was stopped in 2001 due to funding constraints. SHA is reinitiating the project to develop and evaluate alternatives that will improve travel in the US 301 Waldorf area.



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 SHA Project Manager

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## The Project's Purpose And Need

An early step in a planning project is to document the purpose of the project and why it is needed. A draft Purpose and Need Statement has been prepared for this project and the Project Team welcomes your comments. The complete version can be obtained from the project manager or the project website as listed on the last page. Here is a summary of the major points:

### Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to facilitate the safe and efficient flow of local, commuter and through traffic movements of people and goods along US 301 in the Waldorf area, while providing a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive transportation infrastructure to support existing and future traffic demand, land use planning, and development efforts.

### Project Needs

SHA has identified the following needs that the project should address:

#### High Traffic Volumes and Congestion

US 301 in the Waldorf area has experienced considerable residential, commercial, and employment growth over the past 30 years. Traffic congestion and delays are expected to worsen with the projected growth of Waldorf and the Southern Maryland region. By 2030, 17 intersections along US 301 in Waldorf are projected to fail during weekday peak periods – more than double the seven intersections that failed in 2004. This congestion also causes delays on the local east-west roads in the Waldorf area. On weekends, the US 301 corridor experiences heavy mid-day traffic volumes and congestion.

#### Safety

Several segments of US 301 within the project limits experienced rear-end and truck crash rates that were significantly higher than the statewide average rate. The high incidences of these types of crashes in the Waldorf area are likely due to frequent congested conditions at driveways, intersections and median crossovers, combined with the high volume of through traffic mixed with local cross and turning traffic volumes.

#### Traffic Mix and Access Controls

US 301 serves as a major commuter route, a "Main Street" for the region's shopping and business district, and a regional thoroughfare for tourist and commercial traffic. There is a need to better manage the mix of traffic types currently using US 301. This condition is made worse by the many commercial driveways that access US 301. There are also numerous median breaks for left and/or U-turns. There is a need to better manage access controls along US 301 to reduce the number of conflict points.

#### Support Land Use and Development Patterns

In the past 30 years, the population in the three Southern Maryland counties has grown faster than any Maryland

region (143%). The region's forecasted growth of 65% through 2030 is also expected to lead the state. The Waldorf and Brandywine areas are targeted for further commercial, industrial and residential growth. This pattern of growth and development will generate even greater traffic volumes and demands on the area roadways. Transportation improvements along US 301 through Waldorf are needed to support the local, regional and statewide land use planning and development patterns for the area.

#### Environmental Stewardship

The Waldorf area contains a variety of sensitive natural, cultural and community/human environmental resources that warrant protection, enhancement and/or preservation. A few examples include the Zekiah Swamp and Mattawoman Creek, historic properties near T.B. and Waldorf, and a variety of parks, schools, and community facilities. Potential transportation improvements need to be located, designed and implemented with full consideration of these important environmental resources, while ensuring that planned development locations are adequately serviced.

## Project Coordination

Determining how to best improve travel in the US 301 Waldorf area is a big job involving many people – who often have different viewpoints and interests. Fortunately, there's a federal process in place that ensures the project will proceed in a fair and orderly way.

#### Agency Coordination

Maryland developed a streamlined environmental and regulatory process in 2000 to incorporate various agency coordination and regulatory requirements with the State Highway Administration's National Environmental Policy Act requirements into a single, unified process. This process seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation project decision making process and improve the overall timeliness of project decisions.

On the US 301 Waldorf project, about 15 federal, state, and local agencies will work closely with the project team from start to finish within the context of this streamlined process. The important parts of this process include obtaining agency concurrence and/or comments at three key project milestones - purpose and need, alternatives retained for detailed study, and SHA's selected alternative and conceptual mitigation.

#### Public Involvement

Public involvement is an important part of the planning process. Public input helps the Project Team to identify community needs and concerns, and then assist in developing alternatives to address them. The result is usually a better project with greater public acceptance.



# US 301 Waldorf Area Project



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

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

- A. Too much traffic on US 301
- B. Traffic safety
- C. Delays at signalized intersections
- D. Difficulty crossing US 301 and/or making left turns
- E. Difficulty accessing US 301 businesses
- F. Speeding
- G. Lack of a roadway "network"
- H. Insufficient transit service
- I. Lack of bicycle and pedestrian access
- J. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### 3. Which location along US 301 has the worst traffic problems? (Circle one)

- A. MD 228/MD 5 intersection
- B. Acton Lane intersection
- C. Mattawoman-Beantown Road intersection
- D. US 301/MD 5 Split at TB
- E. Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. What improvement do you think would help the most? (Circle one)

- A. Improve existing US 301 and local roadways
- B. Build a bypass around Waldorf
- C. Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. What types of "impacts" are you most concerned about? (Circle one)

- A. Impacts to homes and businesses
- B. Impacts to the natural environment
- C. Impacts during construction
- D. Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Do you have any comments about the project Purpose and Need, schedule, or coordination plan?

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### 7. What else should the Project Team know?

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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 future updates and announcements

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Project Info:** Visit the project website at [www.US301Waldorf.org](http://www.US301Waldorf.org) or call toll free at 1-800-548-5026.

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