

PUBLIC NOTICE

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
AND
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

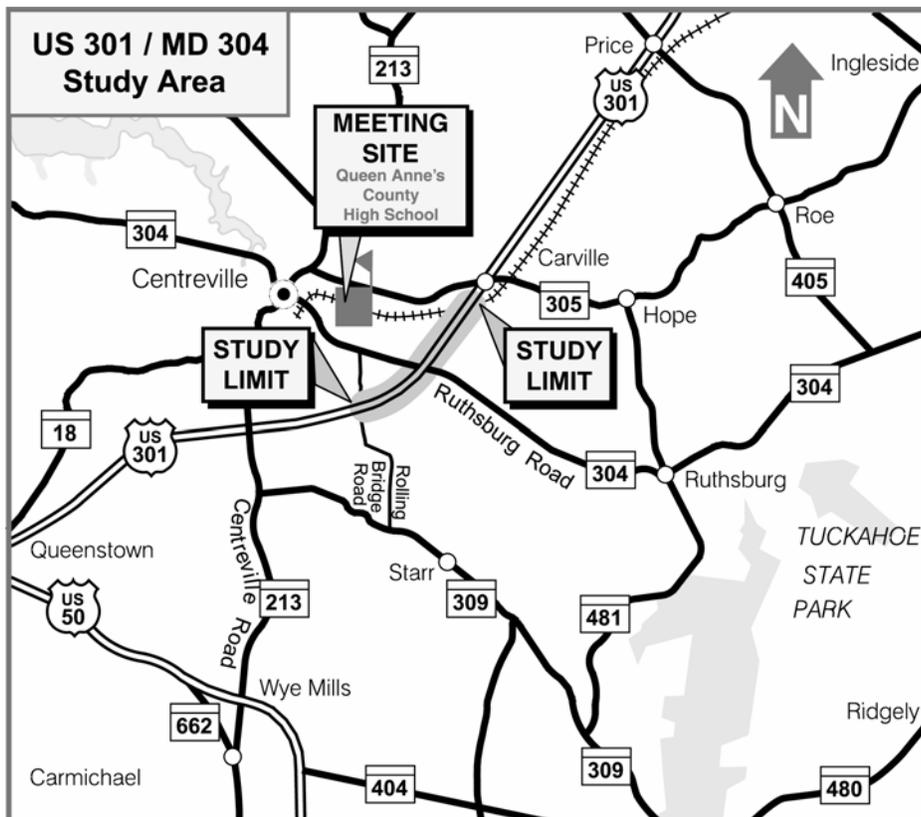
**WILL CONDUCT A
JOINT LOCATION/DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

concerning improvements to:

**THE US 301/MD 304 INTERSECTION AND
ROLLING BRIDGE ROAD ACCESS
AT US 301 FROM US 301/ROLLING BRIDGE ROAD
TO ONE MILE NORTH OF US 301/MD 304**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2006
6:00 p.m. Maps/Displays Available
7:00 p.m. Presentation/Testimony**

**Queen Anne's County High School
125 Ruthsburg Road
Centreville, MD 21617**



This project consists of improving the intersection of US 301 and MD 304, as well as modifying Rolling Bridge Road access at US 301 in Centreville, Maryland.

The purpose of this Hearing is to afford all interested persons the opportunity to present their views regarding the proposed location and general design of the project alternatives, including the associated social, economic and natural environmental effects.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m., mapping depicting the project alternatives will be on display. Representatives of the State Highway Administration (SHA), Federal Highway Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be available to record your comments and discuss points of interest with you.

A formal presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m., lasting approximately 30 minutes, will include a description of the project alternatives, an environmental impact summary, information on right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance procedures, and information about Title VI of the SHA's Equal Opportunity Program. This presentation will be followed by the receipt of public testimony.

The SHA in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and other consulting parties, has identified three historic resources in the study area that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The resources are Bordlington, the Needwood-Content Rural Historic District and Content/C.C. Harper Farm (which is also located within the boundary of the Needwood-Content Rural Historic District). MHT also concurred that archeological sites have previously been recorded in the general vicinity of the project area, and that archeological resources may also exist on properties containing historic standing structures. Therefore, it has been determined the project has the potential to impact significant archeological resources. The results of the Phase I archeological survey and SHA's determination of the effects of this project on significant historic properties will be presented at the Hearing. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act, this Hearing provides the opportunity for public input regarding impacts to historic properties.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who desire to be heard or want to be placed on the project planning mailing list may submit a request to Ms. Carmeletta Harris, Project Manager, Project Planning Division, State Highway Administration, Mail Stop C-301, P.O. Box 717, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717 or by calling 410-545-8522, toll free at 1-800-548-5026 or by email at charris@sha.state.md.us. Written statements and other exhibits in lieu of or in addition to an oral presentation at the Hearing may also be submitted to Ms. Harris at the above address until Friday, November 17, 2006 in order to be included in the "Public Hearing Transcript". If you received a copy of this notice in the mail, you are currently enrolled on the project mailing list. Those persons enrolled will be kept informed of the project development and the opportunity for public involvement as the study progresses.

Requests to speak at the Hearing should be received no later than Wednesday, October 11, 2006 in order to ensure proper scheduling of the Hearing. Elected officials will be given the opportunity to speak before those on the speakers list. After the elected officials, the speakers will be called in the order in which their requests were received. Attendees at the Hearing who desire to speak may do so after those on the previously established list. If a large number of speakers enroll, a limitation of the time allotted to each speaker may be necessary. Brochures and forms for written comments will be available at this Hearing.

The SHA, through consultation with the Corps, has identified Waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, which are regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This Hearing provides the opportunity to present views, opinions and information which will be considered by the Corps in evaluating a Department of the Army permit. All comments received will become part of the formal project record. Copies of any written statements expressing concern for aquatic resources may be submitted to Mr. Rodney Schwarm, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Field Office, Talbottown Shopping Center, Easton, Maryland 21601 until Thursday, November 16, 2006.

The Section 404 Authorization permit decision will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including the direct, secondary and cumulative impacts of the proposed project on the public interest. This decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposed project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposed project will be considered, including the cumulative effects. Among these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigational concerns, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, public comments regarding the assessment of impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and other public interest factors listed above are taken into account.

The applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Project study coordination with the MDE ensures that the project satisfies the alternatives analysis requirements of the State's wetland permit review. Application for the State nontidal wetlands and waterways permit will be made subsequent to the alternative selection process. Water quality certification is requested from the MDE by way of this public notice. Any written comments concerning the work described above which relate to water quality certification

should be sent to Elder Ghigiarelli, Jr., Deputy Program Administrator, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Maryland Department of the Environment, 100 Montgomery Business Center, Baltimore, Maryland 21230. The Section 401 certifying agency has a statutory limit of one year to make its decision. The applicant must obtain any State or local government permits which may be required.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will have no effect on federally listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

HEARING IMPAIRED/NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PERSONS:

If anyone who is hearing impaired desires to attend this Hearing, please notify Ms. Carmeletta Harris, Project Manager, in writing at Project Planning Division, State Highway Administration Mail Stop C-301, P.O. Box 717, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717 or teletype to 1-800-548-5026 (Statewide toll free). Non-English speaking persons who wish to attend should notify Ms. Harris at the same address or call 410-545-8522. All requests for an oral, sign language or non-English language interpreter must be received by Wednesday, October 11, 2006. To the extent that this is feasible and possible, an interpreter will be provided.

A-0448

Neil J. Pedersen

State Highway Administrator