US 29 - Northbound Widening Project

PROJECT NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2010

SHA Resumes Design of US 29

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has resumed design of the US 29 northbound widening from Middle Patuxent River to South of MD 175. This newsletter summarizes the project background, project scope, and upcoming public outreach.

Project Background

The US 29 corridor is a vital part of the transportation network serving Howard County. Over the past 20 years, this corridor has undergone extensive growth in planned commercial, industrial, and residential development. The existing roadway in the proposed improvement area operates above capacity during evening peak traffic hours. In 1987, after much study to identify solutions to this increasing congestion, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved a plan that recommended adding a third lane in each direction on US 29 through the limits of this project. The plan also included access control measures at Rivers Edge Road, Gales Lane, and Old Columbia Road. Howard County has identified this project as a high priority project because this section of US 29 is the only remaining segment with two lanes in the corridor, creating a "choke point" for regional traffic traveling between Washington D.C. and I-70. The design and, ultimately, the construction of this project will be performed in two phases. The first phase extends from Seneca Drive to south of MD 175, and the second phase, from Middle Patuxent River to Seneca Drive.

Project Scope

The project will extend from the US 29 northbound bridge over the Middle Patuxent River to just south of the MD 175 interchange where northbound US 29 expands from two lanes to three lanes, a distance of 4 miles. The project will include:

- base widening along the US 29 median (inside widening) to provide a third through-lane northbound
- installation of a retaining wall between US 29 and Old Columbia Road at Rivers Edge Road
- pavement resurfacing along northbound US 29
- removal of the existing access points to Gales Lane and Old Columbia Road from US 29 northbound and providing connections from the existing communities
- an evaluation for the improvements to the existing US 29 and Rivers Edge Road Intersection
- construction of noise abatement measures where warranted
- drainage improvements
- installation of traffic barrier
- utility relocations
- modification and installation of traffic signing and pavement markings
- landscaping

The project team will present several options for the design of the US 29 and Rivers Edge Road intersection and gather feedback from the community at a Spring Public Informational Meeting.

Next Public Outreach Event

An Informational Public Meeting will be held during the Spring of 2010. Displays will be available for viewing and SHA representatives will be available to discuss the project and answer questions regarding the project.

Questions?

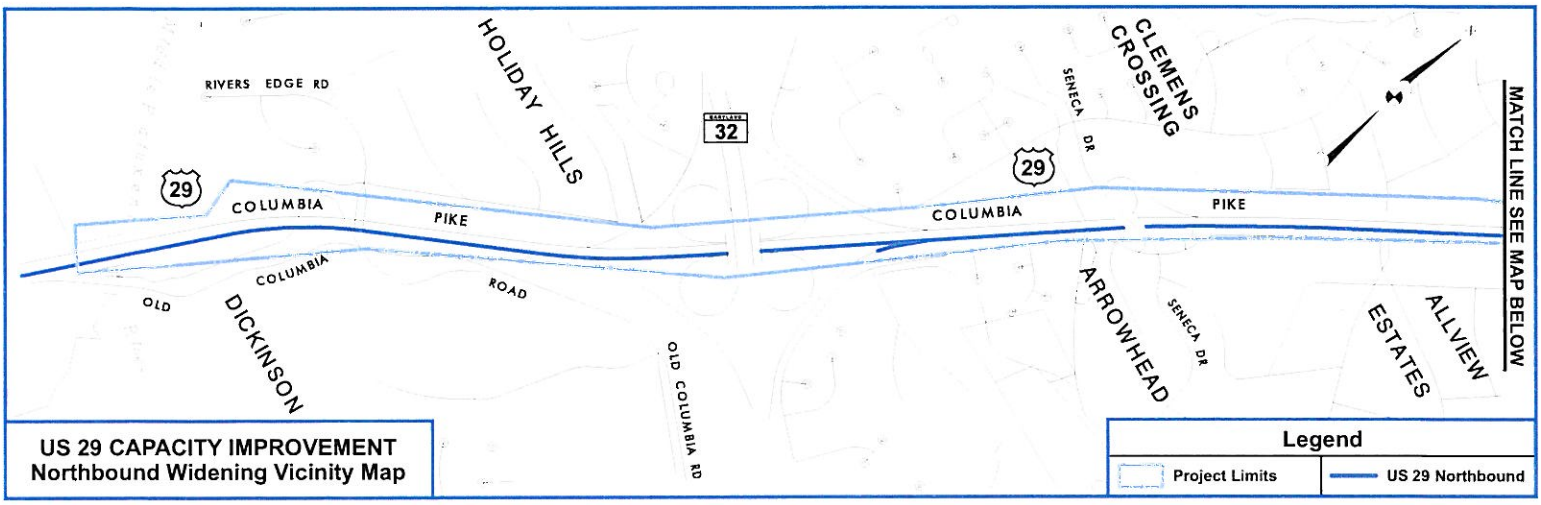
If you have questions or need additional information about this project, or if your community would like the project team to present information at a local neighborhood meeting, please contact:

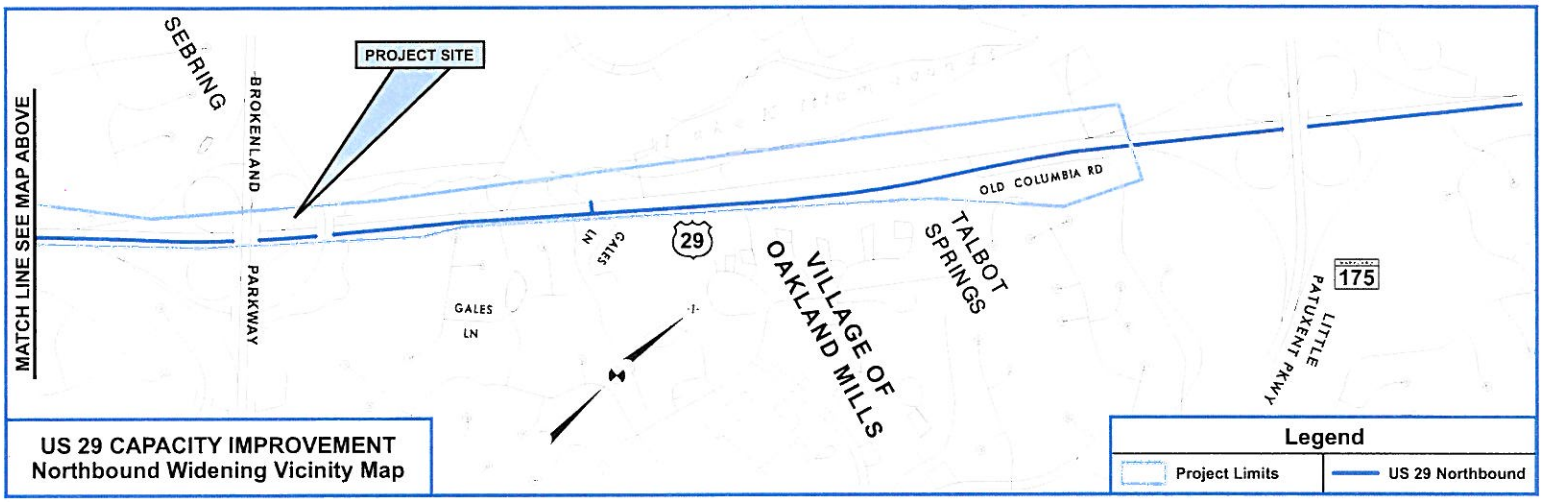
Ms. MarieFrance Guiteau
Project Manager
Toll free: 1-888-228-5003
Email: mguiteau@sha.state.md.us
MD Relay Service for Teletype users can be reached at 7-1-1

Questions and/or comments may also be mailed to:
Maryland State Highway Administration
707 N. Calvert Street, Mail Stop C-102
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Attn: MarieFrance Guiteau

For more information, visit SHA's website www.marylandroads.com

See map on reverse side.





Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, Secretary
Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator

printed on recycled paper

Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
Office of Highway Development
Mail Stop C-102
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Standard Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Owings Mills, MD
Permit No. 128