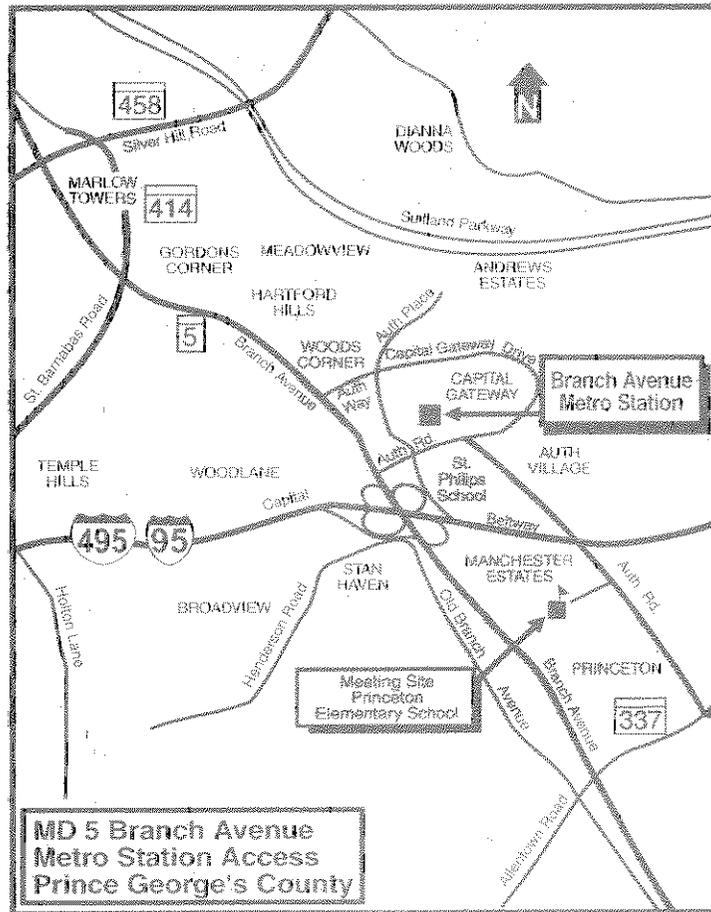


# MD 5

## Branch Avenue Metro Station Access

# INFORMATIONAL

## Public Meeting



**Monday**  
**October 27, 2003**

**5:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Princeton Elementary  
School**  
**6101 Baxter Avenue**  
**Suitland, Maryland**

**Project No. PG413B21**



**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

## **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The purpose of this Public Informational Meeting is to present the selected alternate that will proceed through the final design process. This meeting provides an opportunity for any interested person or citizens group to offer comments on design issues or features. Forms for your written comments are included in this brochure and will also be available at the meeting. Wall maps and displays depicting the design will be available for public review beginning at 5:30 P. M. Representatives of the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Prince George's County will be available to answer questions about this project.

This brochure is intended to highlight key information. A description of the Selected Alternate is presented, see Figure 1.

The workshop is being conducted in an interactive format and includes:

- Project information stations where specific topics can be discussed.
- SHA and Prince George's County representatives will be present to answer your questions and receive your comments.

## **HOW TO PROVIDE ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT**

The public is encouraged to participate in order to ensure citizen input in the development process. You may choose any or all of the following methods to submit your comments.

Provide verbal or written comments to SHA or County representatives at the meeting.

Complete the brochure comment card and submit it at the meeting or mail to SHA.

Call SHA Project Manager, Mr. Eric Marabello P. E. at 410-545-8770.

E-mail the SHA Project Manager at [emarabello@sha.state.md.us](mailto:emarabello@sha.state.md.us)

## **PROJECT MAILING LIST**

When you or your neighbors sign in with the receptionist or submit a comment card you will be placed on the project mailing list. If you received a copy of this brochure in the mail, you are already on the project mailing list.

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of the study is to identify transportation network improvements to provide safe and easy access to the Branch Avenue Metro Station for buses, vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. It is anticipated that these improvements will increase transit ridership at the station.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) opened the Branch Avenue Metro Station, January, 2001. This station facilitated the extension of the Metro Green Line rail service. The Branch Avenue station is an important hub for users of a variety of transportation modes: metrorail, buses, cars, bicycles and pedestrians. Efficient vehicular and pedestrian access to this transit station is necessary to maximize transit ridership, decrease congestion and enhance safety on the adjacent highway network.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

MD 5 (Branch Avenue) from MD 337 to Auth Way is surrounded by residential areas. Several large auto dealerships are located along MD 5 north of I-95/I-495 (the Capital Beltway). The

## **DIRECTIONS:**

### **From Inside the Beltway on Branch Avenue (MD 5):**

From Branch Avenue turn left onto Auth Road. Stay on Auth Road over the Beltway (I-495/I-95). Turn right onto Magruder Avenue. The school is at the end of Magruder Avenue.

### **From Outside the Beltway:**

From Branch Avenue exit at Allentown Road (MD 337). Turn north onto Allentown Road. Turn left onto Auth Road. Turn left onto Magruder Avenue. The school is at the end of Magruder Avenue.

## **PROJECT DESIGN TEAM:**

Mr. Eric Marabello, Project Manager  
Highway Design Division  
State Highway Administration  
Mailstop C-102  
707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Telephone: 410-545-8770  
Toll free: 888-228-5003  
Email: emarabello@sha.state.md.us

Mr. Charlie Watkins, District Engineer  
District 3 Office  
State Highway Administration  
9300 Kenilworth Avenue  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
Telephone: 301-513-7311

Eric Sender, Consultant Project Manager  
Wallace, Montgomery and Associates

Gilbert Estridge, Planning Liaison  
Project Planning Division

## **PROJECT STATUS**

The project is included in the Maryland Department of Transportation Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). However, funding is currently programmed only for Project Planning, which is complete, and Final Design. Additional funding for Right-of Way Acquisition and Construction has not been allocated at this time.

## **INTER-MODAL CONNECTIVITY**

As stated in the Project Need, the Branch Avenue station is an important hub for users of a variety of transportation modes: metrorail, buses, cars, bicycles and pedestrians. The parking lots at the station contain approximately 3,000 long-term parking spaces. A Park-and-Ride/short-term lot provides 150 spaces, a high-occupancy vehicle lot holds an additional 20 vehicles. There are 15 bus bays at the Metro Station.

## **ALTERNATE DEVELOPMENT**

Prior to the December 1998 Public Alternates Workshop the Project Planning team developed eighteen different build alternates. Thirteen of these were dropped from further consideration prior to the workshop. In addition to the no-build alternate five alternates were carried forward for further study. At the December 1999 Public Hearing two build alternates were presented (Alternate 3 and 3A) in addition to the no build alternate. After the Public Hearing an additional build alternate was developed (Alternate 3B) in order to address shortcomings noted in Alternates 3 and 3A. Alternate 3B ultimately became the Selected Alternate.

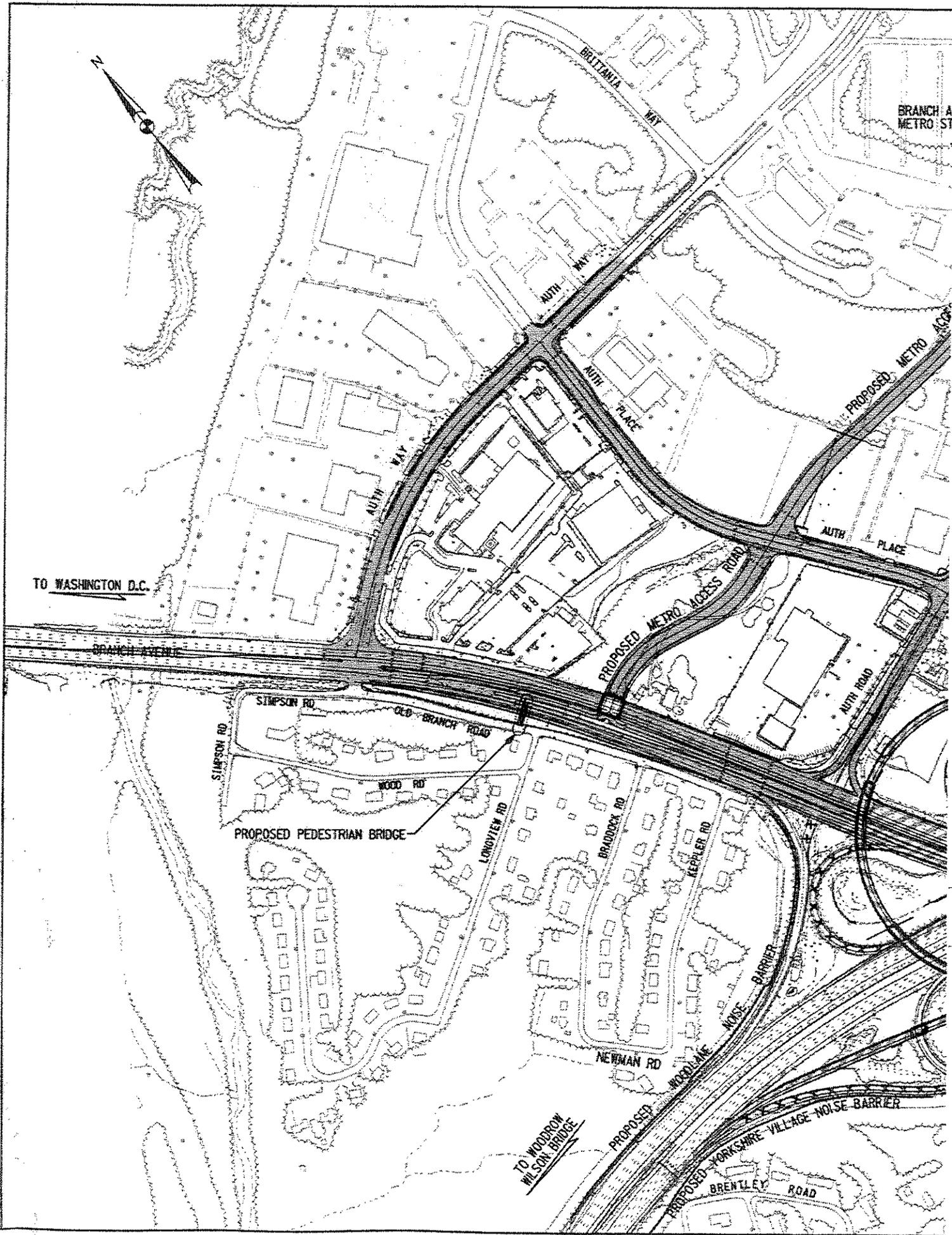
## **SELECTED ALTERNATE**

The Selected Alternate consists of the construction of a 4-lane closed section Metro access road from MD 5 to the Metro station

land use along Auth Road, for the most part, is residential. As Auth Road approaches MD 5, the land use becomes a mixture of commercial/residential and office buildings. Commercial developments are located along a significant portion of Auth Way and Auth Place. Commercial development is proposed along Capital Gateway Drive surrounding the Branch Avenue Metro Station.

After the opening of the Metro Station, a follow-up study was initiated in May 2001, to perform traffic volume counts and Critical Lane Volume (CLV) analyses for intersections within the Metro Station's vicinity. Poor traffic operations and overall roadway network delays were observed during the study period. The effects of this poor level of service included the following:

- Traffic along the southbound MD 5 approach began to back up from Auth Road to Auth Way around 5:00 PM and gradually spilled back to Beech Road/Old Branch Avenue intersection by 6:00 PM. This back up continued throughout the peak travel period, creating a total breakdown in the travel network flow. At that point, vehicles were severely delayed and were forced to wait at intersections north of MD 5 during green signal phases, often unable to clear intersections within the first cycle period.
- Traffic along Auth Road spilled back along MD 5 into the Auth Place/I-495 ramp intersection. This initiated a domino effect where back ups became more extensive and created a total breakdown in operations along this approach.
- Signal coordination between the MD 5/Auth Road intersection and other surrounding intersections seems to be needed. This would help streamline the flow of traffic, diminish back ups, and create an overall smoother travel flow operation along the main corridor.





**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

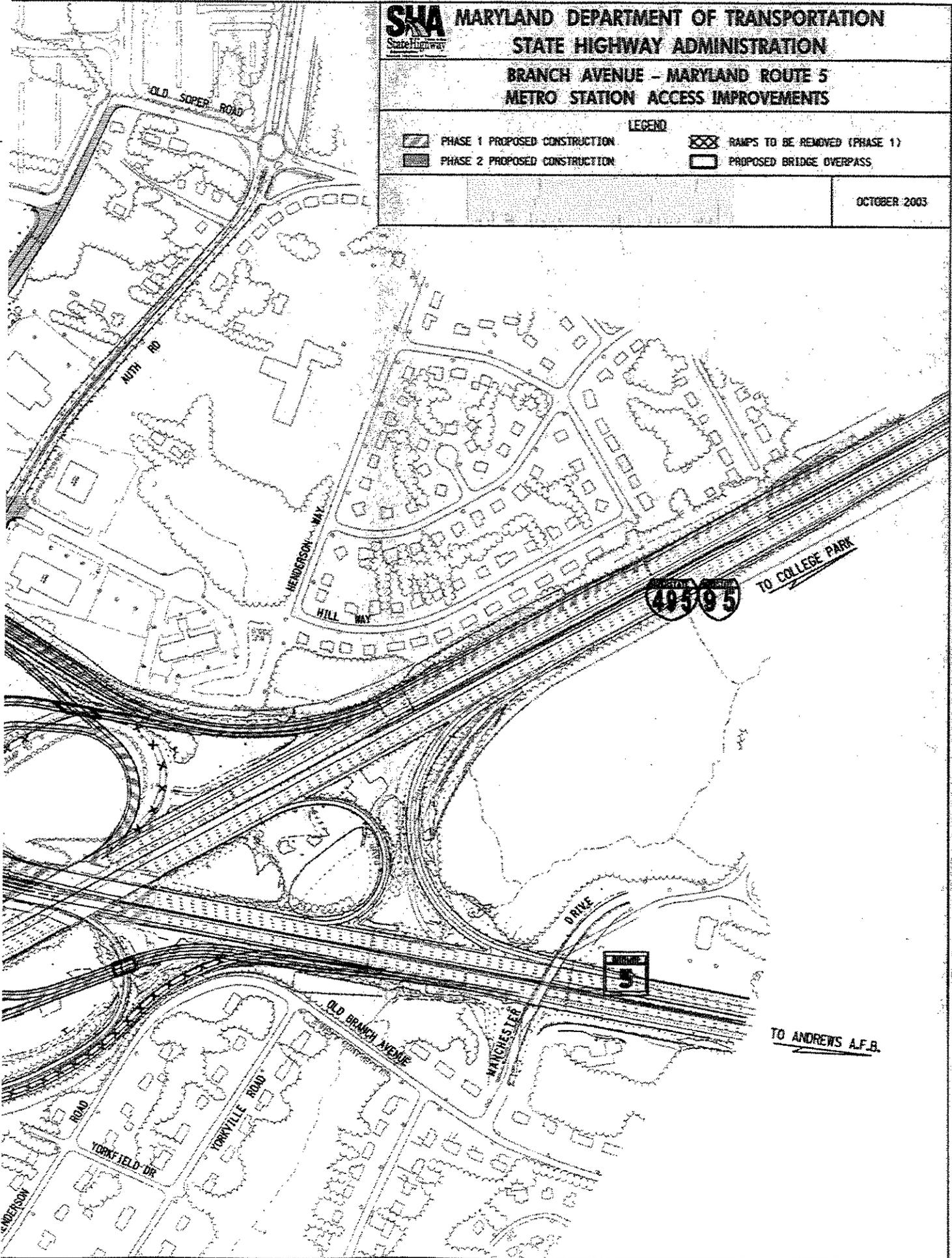
**BRANCH AVENUE - MARYLAND ROUTE 5  
METRO STATION ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

-  PHASE 1 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION
-  PHASE 2 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

**LEGEND**

-  RAMPs TO BE REMOVED (PHASE 1)
-  PROPOSED BRIDGE OVERPASS

OCTOBER 2003



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

parking lots. Northbound MD 5 will be lowered so that the Metro access road can be bridged over northbound MD 5 and meet southbound MD 5 at a traffic light. The access road will also provide access to areas along Auth Way, Auth Road, and Capital Gateway Drive. The existing double left turn from southbound MD 5 to Auth Road will be prohibited. A double left turn lane is proposed for westbound Metro access road traffic onto southbound MD 5.

Auth Place, as well as both Auth Road and Auth Way from Auth Place to Capital Gateway Drive are proposed to be upgraded to 5-lane undivided roadways with continuous center turn lanes. The existing ramp from northbound MD 5 onto westbound I-95/I-495 would be realigned and designed to also allow traffic from the Auth Place/Auth Road intersection to directly access westbound travel on the Capital Beltway. The Auth Road/MD 5 intersection will only provide right-in and right-out movements to and from northbound MD 5. Therefore the existing left-turn movements into and out of Auth Road and left-turns from MD 5 northbound to I-95/I-495 westbound ramp would be eliminated. The existing traffic signal at the Auth Road/MD 5 intersection would also be eliminated.

The extension roadway from Auth Place to the east would provide direct access into the Metro Parking lots and would connect to Old Soper Road and ultimately to Auth Road and the Capital Gateway Drive.

In response to comments received at the October 23, 1999 community meeting, a pedestrian bridge is proposed to provide safe pedestrian access across MD 5/Auth Way from Simpson Drive to the Metro Station, while facilitating free-flow traffic along MD 5.

A preliminary assessment of impacts to environmental resources, resulting from the alternate under consideration, is included in the summary table; see Figure 2, in this brochure. The proposed project is consistent with the Prince George's County Master Plan.

The selected alternate will affect a total of 3.1 miles of roadway and require the acquisition of approximately 15.2 acres of right-of-way. As a result of the proposed improvements 5 residential displacements would occur. No disproportionately high or adverse effects to minority or low-income populations are anticipated as a result of this project.

The project will affect approximately 1725 linear feet of streams and 1200 square feet of wetlands. Avoidance and minimization of stream and wetland impacts as well as mitigation will be developed in consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The project will affect 15.7 acres of woodland. Any woodland impacts will be mitigated through consultation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in accordance with the Maryland Reforestation Law.

Remaining Highway Development Process phases as funding becomes available:

Right-Of-Way Acquisition

Construction

## **MEDIA USED FOR MEETING NOTIFICATION**

Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers to announce this meeting:

- The Prince George's Post**
- The Prince George's Sentinel**
- The Prince George's Journal**
- The Prince George's Gazette (Suitland)**

A news release was distributed to all local newspapers, and public service announcements of this workshop were furnished to radio stations serving the project area.

In addition, those persons who served as members of the Focus Group or are currently on the project mailing list received direct notice of this meeting. Anyone desiring to have their name(s) placed on the project mailing list may use the enclosed mailer or sign up in person with the receptionist at the meeting.

## **NON - DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED AND STATE-AID PROGRAMS**

Should you have any question concerning non-discrimination in Federally Assisted and State-Aid Programs, please contact:

Mr. Walter Owens, Jr., Chief  
Equal Opportunity Division  
State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: (410) 545-0315

## **RIGHT-OF-WAY AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

For information regarding right-of-way, please contact:

Douglas E. Mills  
District #3, Office of Real estate  
State Highway Administration  
P. O. Box 327  
9300 Kenilworth Avenue  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
Phone: (301) 513-7455





# We'd Like Your Feedback

To help us improve our public involvement program, we would appreciate your comments on tonight s meeting.

	Poor			Excellent
Overall, was the meeting useful and informative?	1	2	3	4
Was the staff courteous, knowledgeable and professional?	1	2	3	4
Were the displays & maps easily understood and informative?	1	2	3	4
(If applicable) Did the slide show/video provide a useful overview of the project and process?	1	2	3	4
(If applicable) Did the visualization techniques make the proposed alternatives easier to understand? Examples: artistic sketches, computer-generated renderings, 3-D models, animated video, etc.	1	2	3	4
Was the meeting held in a convenient location?	1	2	3	4
Was the building and parking appropriate for the meeting?	1	2	3	4

Do you have any additional suggestions to improve our public meetings? If you have comments about the study, please use the form in the project brochure.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**FIRST CLASS**

**Permit No. 17715  
Baltimore, MD**

---

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

---

No Postage Necessary if Mailed in the United States. Postage will be paid by:



***Maryland Department of Transportation***

STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND  
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING  
MAIL STOP C-102  
BOX 717  
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-0717

**ATTN. Mr. Eric Marabello  
SHA Project Manager**

---

**FOLD**

**FOLD**



From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**FIRST CLASS**

**Permit No. 17715  
Baltimore, MD**

---

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

---

No Postage Necessary if Mailed in the United States. Postage will be paid by:



***Maryland Department of Transportation***

STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND  
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING  
MAIL STOP C-102  
BOX 717  
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-0717

**ATTN. Mr. Eric Marabello  
SHA Project Manager**

---

FOLD

FOLD



**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
**Project Planning Division**  
**Mail Stop C-102**  
**P.O. Box 717**  
**Baltimore, MD 21203**

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.,**  
*Governor*

**Michael S. Steele,**  
*Lt. Governor*

**Robert L. Flanagan,**  
*Secretary*

**Neil J. Pedersen,**  
*Administrator*

**TO:**