



# PROJECT PLANNING STUDY

SUMMER 2006

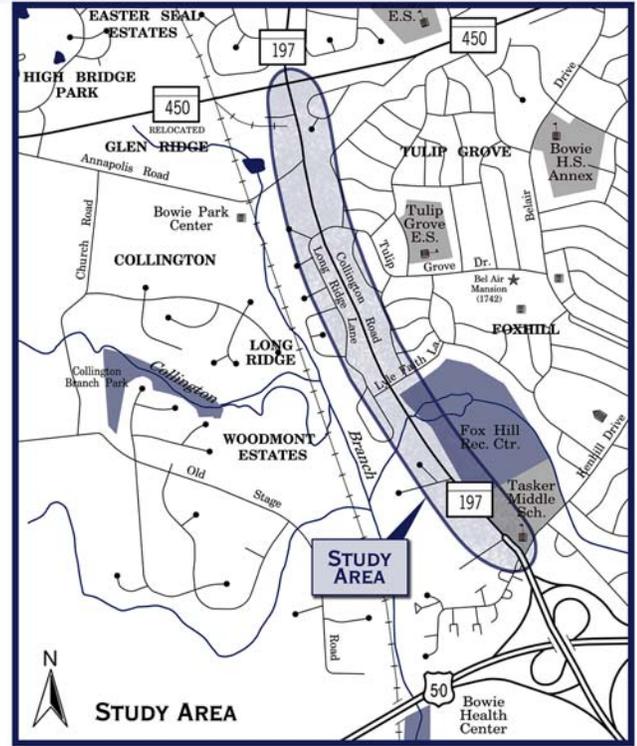


## New Planning Study for MD 197 Initiated

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has initiated a project planning study to investigate transportation improvements to MD 197 between Kenhill Drive and MD 450 Relocated in the City of Bowie.

MD 197 is a two-lane road with no curb and gutters for most of its length. It is one of two primary north-south roads serving the Bowie area. As a result of growth in the vicinity of the project area, the roadway is not able to support the traffic demand. This segment of MD 197 ties into a 5-lane section to the north and a 6-lane section to the south, creating a bottleneck in traffic flow.

The project will focus on how best to ease the growing levels of congestion on the existing roadway network, while considering the needs of the local communities and minimizing impacts to the extent possible.



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# Project Purpose and Need Statement

## PROJECT PLANNING STUDY

At the start of any planning study, the SHA develops a draft Purpose and Need Statement (P&N) that is used as a foundation for all of the engineering and environmental studies that follow. The P&N Statement is a summary of the study area needs in terms of traffic, mobility, land use, pedestrian and bicycle use. It is crucial to the success of this planning study to have a strong foundation based on input from the residents, business owners and other stakeholders of the MD 197 area. Please review this summary and provide us with your comments. You can do so by completing the survey included in this newsletter, calling the study team, or writing your comments and sending them to the SHA. All of the contact information for the study are on the back of this publication. The complete Purpose and Need Statement can be obtained by contacting the Project Manager at the address below.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MD 197 study area is located within the City of Bowie and extends 1.4 miles from Kenhill Drive (just north of US 50) to the south and MD 450 Relocated to the north. The study area consists of primarily residential and commercial uses and a hiker / biker trail located on the east side of MD 197. Traffic volume levels are increasing along MD 197, causing increased congestion and longer delays at intersections. The transition to a two lane section from both the north and south constricts both the local and regional traffic volumes within the study area.

## PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

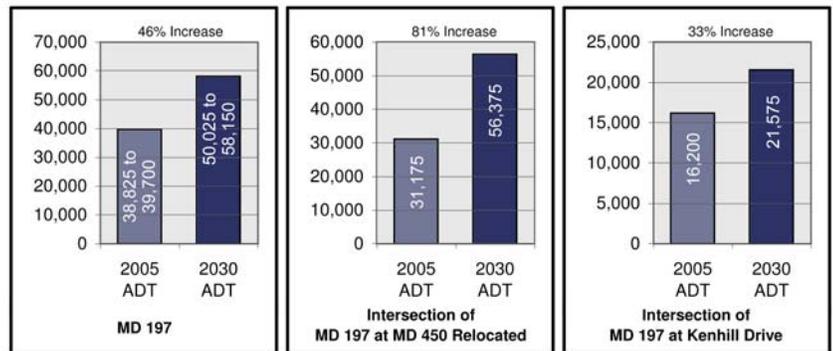
The purpose of this project is to address the transportation needs in the study area. In addition, this project would address the pedestrian safety and access issues to the residences, the school and the community park within this section of MD 197. Lastly, the project will provide improved access to the business and residential communities in the City of Bowie as well as improve the north-south regional transportation network connectivity within and beyond the study limits.

## NEED FOR THE PROJECT

**Growth and Development** - There has been tremendous growth in the vicinity of the project area since the 1980s. The commercial developments of Bowie Crossing, Bowie New Town Center, Bowie Gateway Center and other developments to the south and residential developments north of the project limits have greatly increased the volume of regional traffic on MD 197. The growth in traffic volumes is expected to continue.

**Traffic** - The **Average Daily Traffic (ADT)** on MD 197 is projected to increase 46% within the next 25 years. Volumes on some intersecting roads in the study area are also projected to increase as much as 81% over the same period.

MD 197 Projected Increases in Average Daily Traffic (ADT)



**Level of Service** - Planners often use a simple grading system, much like the one we all used in grade school, to characterize the operations at intersections. A grade or **Level of Service (LOS)** of 'A' means there is no delay or congestion and LOS 'F' means the intersection is failing and has long delays and high levels of congestion. The chart below shows examples of some intersections within this study segment of MD 197. As can be seen, several of the intersections are at or approaching failing conditions and nearly all will be failing by the traffic forecast year of 2030.

MD 197 Level of Service (LOS)

Intersection of:	Year 2005		Year 2030	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
MD 450 Relocated	C	E	F	F
Gallant Fox Lane	A	C	D	F
Old MD 450	C	D	F	F
Long Ridge Lane/Tulip Grove	C	C	F	F
Lyle Lane	D	F	F	F
Lerner Place	B	C	F	F
London Lane/Kenhill Drive	E	E	F	F

**Safety** - Crash data along MD 197 was collected from January 2001 through June 2004. Left turn collisions at Gallant Fox Lane were greater than the statewide average for similar roadways.

- ➔ Kenhill Drive / London Lane to Faith Lane / Lyle Lane
  - 50 police reported accidents
  - 54% were rear end collisions
- ➔ Faith Lane / Lyle Lane to Gallant Fox Lane
  - 98 police reported accidents
  - 34% were rear end collisions
  - 24% were left turn collisions

### To Learn More!

If you would like more information on this project, please visit the Maryland State Highway Administration's website at:

[www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com)

Written comments / requests may be submitted to:

Mr. Alan Straus, Project Manager  
 Mail Stop C-301  
 State Highway Administration  
 P.O. Box 717  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717

To speak with members of the Project Team, please call toll free 1-800-548-5026 or email [astraus@sha.state.md.us](mailto:astraus@sha.state.md.us)



# PROJECT PLANNING STUDY

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 project area? (Circle three)

- A. Too much traffic on MD 197
- B. Traffic safety
- C. Delays at signalized intersections
- D. Difficulty crossing MD 197 and/or making left turns
- E. Speeding
- F. Insufficient transit service
- G. Bicycle and pedestrian access / safety
- H. Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

3. What improvements do you think would help the most? (Circle one)

- A. Intersection / traffic signal improvements
- B. Reconstruction of certain segments of MD 197
- C. Upgrade MD 197 to a multi-lane roadway
- D. Do nothing
- E. Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. 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. Noise
- E. Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please provide your comments on the Purpose and Need Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Please provide additional information about the study area (attach additional sheet(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:

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

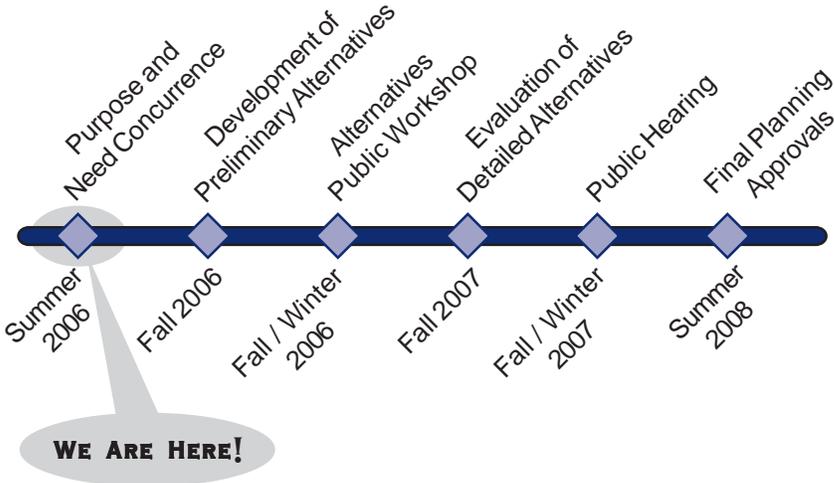
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAR ALONG PERFORATIONS

## Project Status

The MD 197 study is funded for Project Planning only, which means it is not yet funded for design, right-of-way or construction. The Project Planning phase includes agency and public involvement; the review of all reasonable and feasible alternatives, including the No-Build alternative; as well as the collection and evaluation of human, cultural and natural environmental factors.

## Proposed Schedule



## Public Input is Important!

Public input in the project planning process is encouraged. 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.

If you would like to be added to the project mailing list, please add your name and address to the bottom of the survey. Major meeting announcements and periodic updates will be sent to those on the project mailing list.

Written comments / requests may be submitted to:

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 Project Manager  
 Mail Stop C-301  
 State Highway Administration  
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**Robert L. Flanagan**, Secretary  
**Neil J. Pedersen**, Administrator



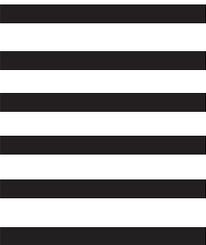
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*Maryland Department of Transportation*  
 STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 OFFICE OF PLANNING AND  
 PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING  
 MS C-301  
 BOX 717  
 BALTIMORE, MD 21203-0717  
 ATTN: Mr. Alan Straus, SHA Project Manager

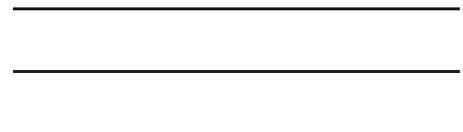


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