

IV. COORDINATION AND COMMENTS

A. Process Coordination

1. Purpose and Need

The Purpose and Need Statement for the MD 4 Project Planning Study was presented to Local, State and Federal agencies for review and comment in October 2007. Each agency concurred on the Purpose and Need. Refer to **Appendix B** for a list of the agency correspondence regarding the approval of the Purpose and Need Statement.

2. Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study

The Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS) was presented to the agencies for review and comment in May 2009. Each agency concurred and some had minor comments. Refer to **Appendix B** for a list of agency correspondence regarding the ARDS.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) advised that a navigational study of waterway users identifying sizes and types of boats, with horizontal and vertical clearance requirements. The USCG also recommended that the team reach out to waterway users and provide an opportunity for public comment. Once the study is completed and public input is received, they will provide guidance regarding the required vertical and horizontal clearance for the proposed bridge alternatives.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) indicated that a “Buffer Management Plan” may be required by the Critical Area Commission. All impacts to non-tidal and tidal wetlands need to be mitigated for separately. MDE only regulates 100-year floodplains for non-tidal waters, it doesn’t regulate floodplains for tidal waterways.

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) concurred that the project is located in a Priority Funding Area and complies with the Priority Funding Area law. MDP recommended that Alternative 2 include transit and other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies. MDP also supports the inclusion of a separated trail throughout the entire length of the project. SHA indicated that TDM strategies have been incorporated into all build alternatives and have been identified in the Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties Master Plans.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) indicated that they strongly support dropping Alternative 5. They prefer Alternative 3 because it appears to have the least amount of impacts to the Patuxent River. NMFS is concerned about potential bridge construction impacts to finfish resulting from shock/pressure waves associated with power driving of large-diameter hollow steel piles and/or subaqueous blasting during demolition of the existing bridge. SHA notified NMFS that Alternative 5 was dropped due to extensive environmental impacts and public opposition.

3. Resource Agency Coordination

A list of all of the additional agency coordination and correspondence that has occurred during the project to this point is located in **Appendix B**.

4. Streamlined Process Meetings

Meetings were held with local, state, and federal agencies at critical points in the project planning process to keep involved parties informed and solicit feedback. These meetings are listed in **Table IV-1**.

Table IV-1: Meetings

Meeting	Purpose	Date	Attendees
Interagency Review Meeting (IRM)	Provide an update on the project with a focus on the Purpose and Need.	7/18/07	SHA, FHWA, MDE, MT, USACE, MDP, DNR, NPS, EPA, USFWS
Interagency Review Meeting (IRM)	Provide an update on the project with a focus on the Alternatives to be presented at the June 2008 Public Workshop.	5/21/08	SHA, FHWA, MDE, MHT, USACE, NMFS, BMC, EPA
Interagency Review Meeting (IRM)	Provide an update on the project with a focus on the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS)	5/20/09	SHA, FHWA, MDE, USACE, MTA, USFWS, CAC, MDP, BMC, EPA
St. Mary's Board of County Commissioners	Briefing to St. Mary's County Commissioners with a MD 4 Presentation and Update	8/25/09	Business leaders, residents, community leaders, and Southern Maryland News/Independent/Enterprise
MD 4 Major Stakeholders – St. Mary's County	Briefing to MD 4 Stakeholders with a MD 4 Presentation and Update	8/25/09	Representatives from the Tri-County Council of Southern MD, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission, Southern MD Electrical Cooperative, St. Mary's County Department of Public Works, and St. Mary's County Parks and Recreation
Field Tour Meeting Minutes	Provide a field tour to coordinating agencies of the delineated resources along the MD 4 project corridor.	9/22/09	USACE, MDE, USFWS, CAC, SHA
Briefing to Calvert County Commissioners	Briefing to Calvert County Commissioners with a MD 4 Presentation and Update	9/29/09	Business leaders, residents, community leaders, and Southern Maryland News/Independent/Enterprise
Briefing to Tri-County Council Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee	Briefing to Tri-County Council Committee with a MD 4 Presentation and Update	3/29/10	Representatives from Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties.

Table IV-1: Meetings

Meeting	Purpose	Date	Attendees
Walking tour with Calvert County Commissioners	Provide a brief walking tour to describe potential access modifications in Calvert County	04/30/10	Community leaders and local property owners
Solomons Business and Civic Associations	Briefing to residents and businesses in the Solomons community with an update on the project and potential access modifications in Calvert County	5/5/10	Community leaders, business leaders, residents, South County Times, Calvert Independent newspaper
Calvert Cliffs Public Hearing - NRC/USACE Joint Hearing for Calvert Cliffs Unit 3 Expansion	Provide a brief overview of the MD 4 study.	5/25/10	Community leaders and local property owners
Meeting with Potentially Impacted Property Owners	Briefing to potentially impacted property owners about the MD 4 study.	7/8/10	25 potentially impacted property owners

B. Elected Officials Correspondence

A meeting with Southern Maryland Delegation was held on February 1, 2008. A meeting summary is included in **Appendix B**.

C. Public Coordination/Comments

1. Stakeholders

Some of the major stakeholders identified by the project team for the MD 4 project include:

- Tri-County Council of Southern MD
- St. Mary’s County Metropolitan Commission,
- Southern MD Electrical Cooperative
- St. Mary’s County Department of Public Works
- St. Mary’s County Parks and Recreation
- Calvert County Department of Public Works
- Calvert County Department of Planning
- Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- Cove Point LNG

The project team has also identified several other stakeholders for the MD 4 project, which have been identified in a table located in **Appendix B**. A letter was sent to the stakeholders on July 31, 2007 inviting them to attend the October 2007 Public Meetings and there has been ongoing coordination with the stakeholders since then. Please refer to **Appendix B** for the correspondence that has been sent thus far.

Outreach to the general public for the MD 4 Project Planning Study are ongoing. SHA has distributed mailings that include a newsletter and a postcard informing the public of the project as well as inviting them to attend workshops. Through comment response cards provided by newsletters and public workshops, SHA has documented concerns about current capacity and traffic operations along MD 4.

2. Public Workshop

There were two Alternates Public Workshops held in June of 2008, one in Calvert County and one in St. Mary's County, to present the preliminary results of the project planning study to date. SHA presented one mainline widening alternative, two Patuxent River Crossings and three MD 4/MD 235 interchange options at the workshop, along with information on each alternative/option, including estimated cost, right-of-way requirements, displacements, number of properties impacted, and an estimation of natural environmental impacts. A total of 343 people attended this workshop including local residents, community leaders and county representatives. Refer to **Appendix B** for comments and informational flyers obtained from the June Alternates Public Workshops.

A significant amount of opposition was received regarding Alternative 5. A petition was signed by 192 citizens opposed to Alternative 5 and delivered to SHA on August 22, 2008. A copy of the petition is located in **Appendix B**.