

## Scoping Open House Review and Report

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is conducting the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, which is following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. In April, MDOT SHA held the first set of public workshops, called Scoping Open Houses, to introduce the study to the public and gather feedback on the potential environmental and transportation considerations to be explored by the study.

The Scoping Open Houses provided an informal setting where the community could speak to representatives from MDOT SHA and the study team. Comments from the public highlighted a desire to better understand the study goals and the types of roadway alternatives that may be developed as part of the study. These comments and more detail regarding the outcome of the scoping process can be found on the program website **495-270-p3.com**.

## Purpose & Need

MDOT SHA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed the study purpose and need through a comprehensive process that included a review of past and existing studies, analyzing regional, environmental, and socioeconomic conditions, and feedback from the public and federal, regional, state, and local agencies. The purpose of the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study is to develop a travel demand management solution that addresses congestion, improves trip reliability on I-495 and I-270 within the study limits and enhances existing and planned multimodal mobility and connectivity. The study will address the following needs:

- Accommodate existing traffic and long-term traffic growth;
- Enhance trip reliability;
- Provide additional roadway travel choices;
- Accommodate homeland security; and
- Improve movement of goods and services

Additional capacity and improvements to enhance reliability must be financially viable. MDOT's traditional funding sources will be unable to effectively finance, construct,

operate, and maintain improvements of this magnitude. Revenue sources that provide adequate funding, such as pricing options, are needed to achieve congestion relief and address existing high travel demand.

Given the highly constrained area surrounding the interstates in the study area, MDOT SHA will work to avoid and minimize community, wetlands, waterways, cultural, noise, air quality and parkland impacts, and mitigate for impacts when not avoidable to the extent practicable. MDOT SHA will work with our federal, state, and local resource agency partners in a streamlined, collaborative, and cooperative way to meet all regulatory requirements to ensure the protection of significant environmental and community resources. More detailed information regarding the purpose and need is on the program website.

## Alternatives

A Preliminary Range of Alternatives is being considered in the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study. These alternatives include the No-Build alternative and corridor-wide solutions that are intended to address congestion along I-495 and I-270, offer more travel mode choices, and enhance travel efficiency. A wide range of alternatives are being evaluated and will include adding general purpose lanes, managed lanes, and transit alternatives.

MDOT SHA developed Screening Criteria to evaluate the reasonableness of the range of alternatives. This screening evaluation will determine which alternatives are carried forward in the study. MDOT SHA is interested in hearing your input on the Preliminary Range of Alternatives presented at the July public workshops. Alternative descriptions and simple graphics featuring typical details of the potential improvements will be presented.

This Fall, the study team will complete further detailed technical evaluation on the alternatives carried forward including traffic, air, noise, environmental analyses, and identify potential effects to properties. The Team plans to present the detailed technical evaluations for public feedback to inform MDOT SHA in the identification of its Preferred Alternative at a later date.



## Your Voice Counts. Your Feedback is Critical

A preliminary range of alternatives has been developed based on feedback from the public at the April Open Houses. In July, MDOT SHA will host public workshops to present these alternatives and the screening criteria that will be used to evaluate the alternatives to be carried forward. Your input at this next phase of outreach is critical in determining alternatives to be carried forward for further study.

In addition to the public workshops, the study team will reach out to the community beyond the traditional workshop format. You will find the MDOT SHA study team across the region, including at festivals and local civic events, where we will be capturing your feedback on the study. These events will ensure that we increase the diversity of ideas and gather your input on the study. Additionally, an online survey intended to capture public feedback will be available on the program website at **495-270-P3.com**.

## What to expect in July?

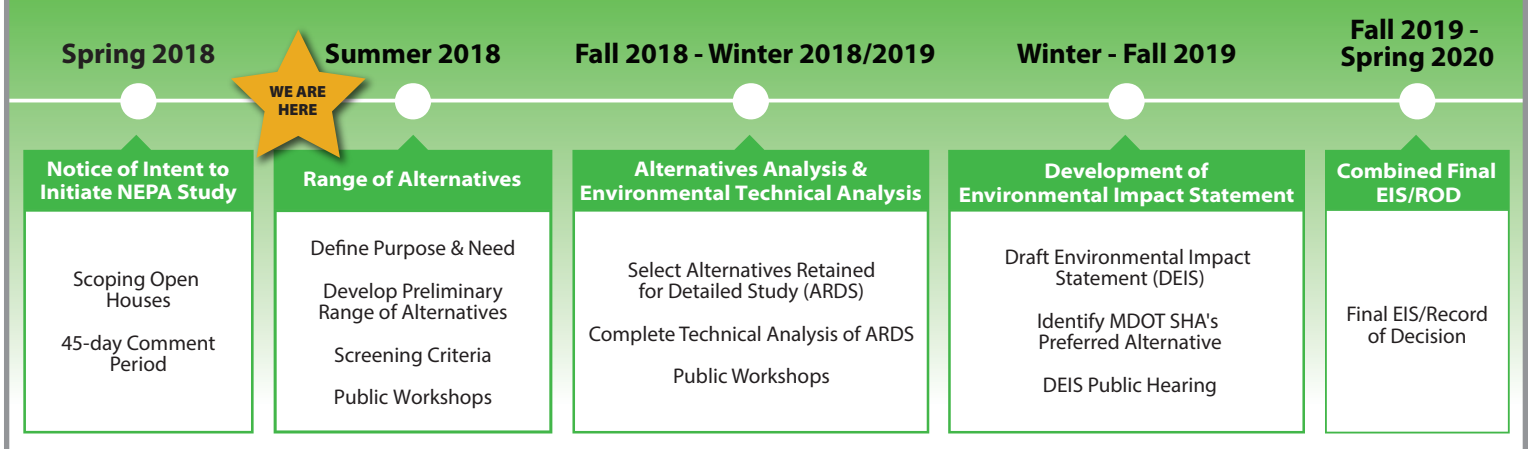
MDOT SHA is hosting a series of public workshops in Montgomery and Prince George's counties to present:

- Study status and schedule;
- Purpose and Need summary;
- Preliminary Range of Alternatives developed from the scoping process; and
- Screening Criteria to evaluate the alternatives

The meeting formats will include static board displays, scheduled general presentations, and small working group tables. The general presentations will occur at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and last approximately 30 minutes. The boards and small working group tables will be available throughout the meeting with technical staff available for discussion of comments and questions. Alternative descriptions and simple graphics featuring typical details of the potential improvements will be presented. **Environmental and property information will not be available at this stage of the study.** A virtual workshop will also be available on the program website **495-270-p3.com** starting July 17, 2018.



## I-495 & I-270 MANAGED LANES STUDY TIMELINE



The website includes a contact page where you can request a presentation for your community association meeting.

如需<中文版>的简报, 请发电子邮件到 495-270-P3@sha.state.md.us。请在电子邮件主题栏标出

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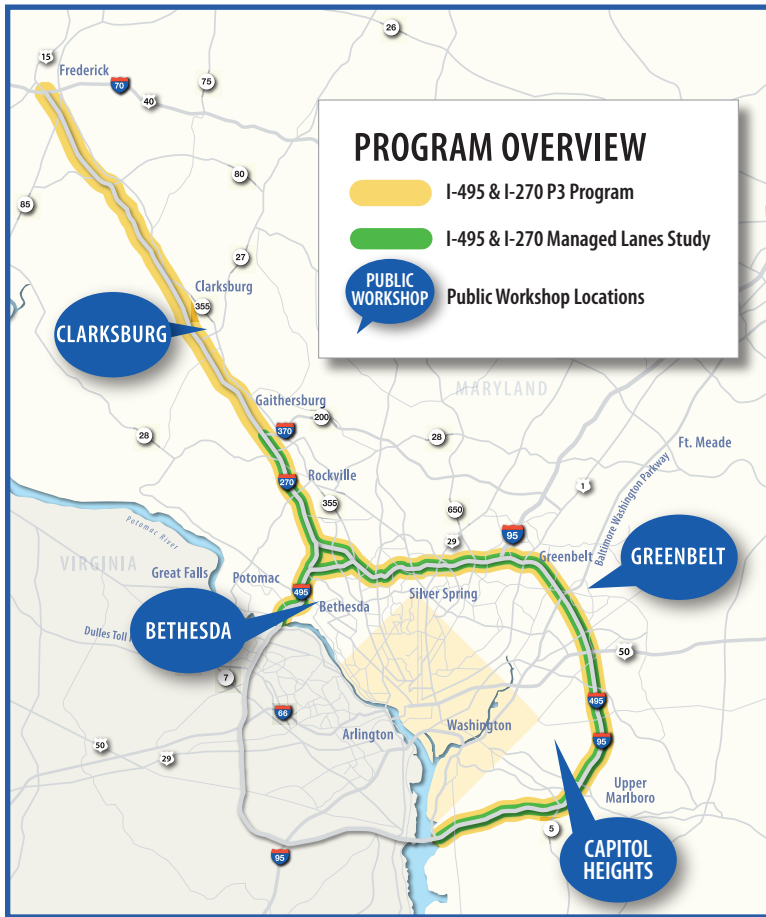
Để nhận được bản tin này bằng <tiếng Việt>, xin vui lòng gửi email đến: 495-270-P3@sha.state.md.us. Xin vui lòng biểu thị trong dòng tiêu đề email.

Para recibir este boletín en Español, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a: 495-270-P3@sha.state.md.us. Por favor indique en el asunto del correo electrónico.



495-270-P3.com

# Study Newsletter



**JOIN US AT ONE OF THESE  
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS!**

**Tuesday, July 17, 2018**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School  
7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

# Eleanor Roosevelt High School

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Clarksburg High School  
22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## Clarksburg High School

**Tuesday, July 24, 2018**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Central High School  
200 Cabin Branch Road, Capitol Heights, MD 20743

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## Central High School

**Wednesday, July 25, 2018**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Thomas W. Pyle Middle School  
6311 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Thomas W. Pyle Middle School

*REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1. Persons requiring assistance to participate, such as an interpreter for hearing/speech difficulties or assistance with the English language, should contact the project toll-free number at 833-858-5960 by July 10, 2018.*



## Stay Connected

- Visit the website at [www.495-270-p3.com](http://www.495-270-p3.com)
- Submit a comment online or by mail to:  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
State Highway Administration  
**I-495 & I-270 P3 Office**  
707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601  
Baltimore, MD 21202
- Contact the study team via email at [495-270-P3@sha.state.md.us](mailto:495-270-P3@sha.state.md.us)
- Call the study team toll free at **833-858-5960**
- Sign up for email notifications on the website at [www.495-270-p3.com](http://www.495-270-p3.com)

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