



# THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Office of the Planning Director  
Prince George's County Planning Department

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772  
TTY: (301) 952-4366  
[www.mncppc.org/pgco](http://www.mncppc.org/pgco)

301-952-3595  
**MR-1310A**

April 25, 2013

Ms. Sarah R. Gentner  
Transportation Design Engineer  
Office of Highway Development  
Maryland State Highway Administration, C102  
707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: MD 337 Intersection Capacity Improvement  
Project at I-95/I-495 Northbound Off-Ramp,  
SHA Contract Number PG7805170  
(MR-1310A)**

Dear Ms. Gentner:

The Prince George's County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the intersection capacity improvement project at the intersection of Allentown Road (MD 337) and the I-95/I-495 northbound off-ramp. The project is limited to the immediate vicinity of that intersection, and is associated with Maryland Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities. Improvements include drainage improvements, widening of the off-ramp at eastbound MD 337, improvements to sidewalks, and the grinding and resurfacing of the pavement. Bicycle-compatible lanes will be incorporated as part of the resurfacing of the roadway. This review involves the semi-final review plans (65 percent) dated December, 2012. Staff comments are as follows:

- 1) The proposed improvements are within an existing developed area. MD 337 carries an average daily traffic (ADT) volume of 27,650 vehicles per day, and the I-95/I-495 northbound off-ramp carries an ADT volume of 5,750 vehicles per day. The 20-year forecast indicates ADT volume for these facilities of 33,700 and 8,550 vehicles per day, respectively.
- 2) The MD 337 facility is shown on the 2009 *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* as a planned arterial facility with an ultimate right-of-way between 100 and 120 feet and four-to-six lanes. The immediate roadway section between Auth Road and Suitland Road has operated for many years as a divided facility with three lanes westbound and two lanes eastbound within a right-of-way varying from 100 feet to 130 feet. A small amount of additional right-of-way will be acquired from Joint Base Andrews. The current project is consistent with the Master Plan recommendation that matches the planned ultimate section and improves the roadway's functionality for bicyclists and pedestrians. The six-lane section can easily handle the forecasted ADT volume of 33,700 at level-of-service E or better. Level-of-service E has been the General Plan policy level of service in this area since 2002.

- 3) The 2013 *Approved Central Branch Avenue Corridor Revitalization Sector Plan* includes a recommendation for a multi-way boulevard along MD 337, south and west of the I-95/I-495 northbound off-ramp. The multi-way concept incorporates enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities and a storefront on-street parking/service lane along the north side of MD 337. The provision of six travel lanes along MD 337 is consistent with this project, and the additional multi-way facilities will be considered during the redevelopment of Andrews Manor Shopping Center into a pedestrian-friendly mixed-use environment.
- 4) The project will result in minor impacts to an unnamed tributary to the Henson Creek and minor impacts to trees in the corridor. These impacts were not quantified in the supporting material. Any impacts are subject to permitting by the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- 5) The proposed project does not include impacts to any cultural or historic resources within Prince George's County.
- 6) The traffic control plans indicate that there will be no significant closures during the construction phases. All short-term impacts are reasonable and acceptable.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this intersection capacity improvement project. If you have any additional questions or need additional information, please contact Tom Masog, Planner Coordinator, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-5216, or via email at [tom.masog@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:tom.masog@ppd.mncppc.org).

Sincerely,



Fern Piret  
Planning Director

cc: Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division  
Eric Foster, Planning Supervisor, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Howard Berger, Planning Supervisor, Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Cynthia Fenton, Acting Planning Supervisor, Community Planning Division  
Theodore Kowaluk, Senior Planner, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Tom Masog, Planner Coordinator, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Redis C. Floyd, Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County Council