

MD 99 OPEN HOUSE



FEBRUARY 6, 2018 5 – 8 PM

**GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING, 3430 COURT HOUSE
DRIVE, ELLICOTT CITY**



Purpose of Open House and Presentation



Opportunity for the public to:

- learn about the project
- review material provided by Howard County and MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
- engage with and give input to staff

Opportunity for staff to:

- Learn about issues/concerns from the public

What is the project?



Project is an “investigation”;

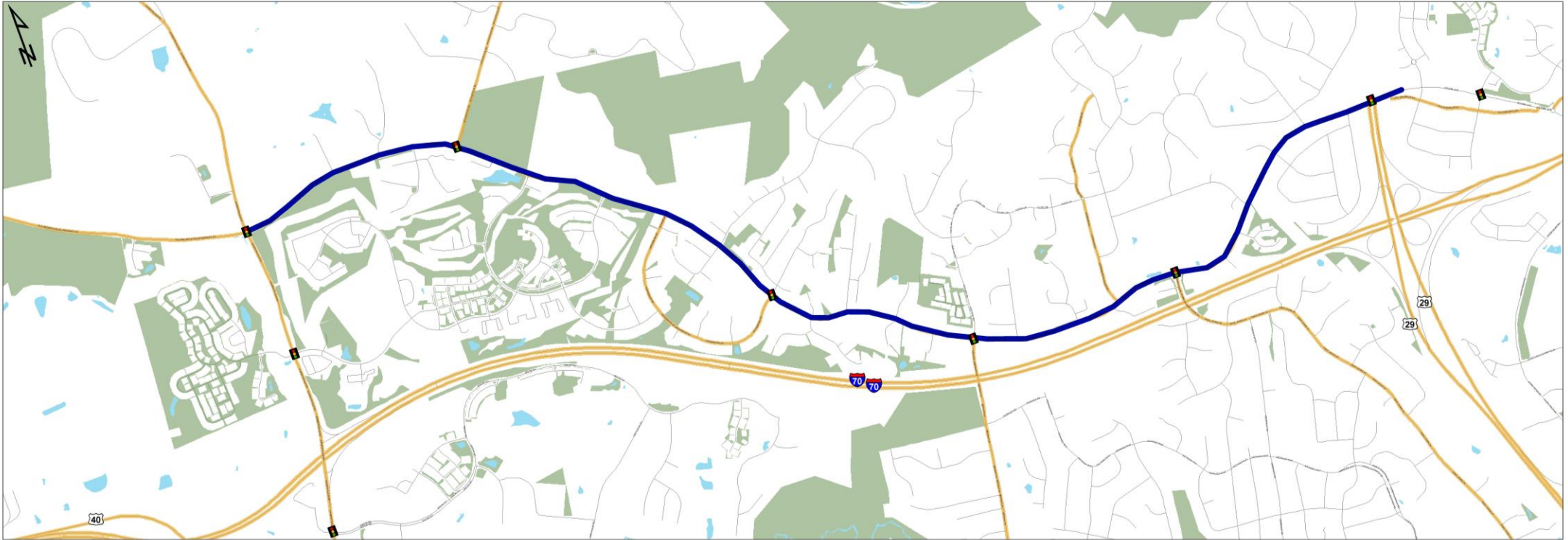
“Investigating safety and congestion issues on the MD 99 corridor between Marriottsville Road and US 29/MD 99 intersection” FY 2018 Priority Letter.

Tasks - timeline – approximately 6 months:

- Hear from the public – comments, mark up maps
- Review issues
- Review conditions
- Determine recommendations and next steps

Several possible outcomes (see below)

What is the project?



Possible project outcomes



- Spot improvements (e.g., signage, markings, lighting, small construction projects, safety, sidewalk, bicycle)
- Design and engineering towards a larger project – request funding in priority letter for Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP)
- Study / planning towards a more comprehensive project – request funding in priority letter for CTP

Getting a project in the CTP is a key step towards larger project funding and implementation

Project Genesis



- Long-standing concerns by some residents
- Much public input into FY 2018 Priority Letter process
- County Executive decided to include in Priority Letter - MD 99 is a state road
- Howard County Office of Transportation initiated the project

Who is working on the project?



- Howard County Office of Transportation – Lead

In coordination with:

- Maryland Dept. of Transportation, State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)

Support from Howard County Departments:

- Planning and Zoning (land use)
- Public Works (traffic engineering)
- Police

Howard County Public School System

Sample of issues raised by public



- Increased traffic (congestion). Causes?
Traffic diverting from I-70; new (regional) development, few route alternatives
Has multiple consequences
- Road section; lack of continuous shoulders, sidewalks, bicycle lanes
- Safety – drivers, walkers, cyclists. Speeding. Numbers of accidents.
- Difficulty/danger making lefts from side streets onto MD 99
- Safe access to schools (Mt Hebron, Waverly)

Sample of issues raised by public



- MD 99/US 29 intersection backs up
- Heavy use by bicyclists – no westbound alternative
- Location-specific issues – see comment maps – for example,
 - Traffic patterns around Mt. Hebron HS
 - Use of firehouse driveway to make U-turns
 - Obstructed views
 - Blind curves
 - Bethany Glen

Existing Conditions: INRIX Congestion Scan

Traffic on northbound US 29 heading north in Carroll County uses MD 99 as an alternate route during the evening peak hours when westbound I-70 is congested.

At US 29/Rogers Avenue:

Eastbound (morning)

6:45 am – 8:00 am

Westbound (morning, mid-day, and evening)

8:00 am – 9:00 am

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm

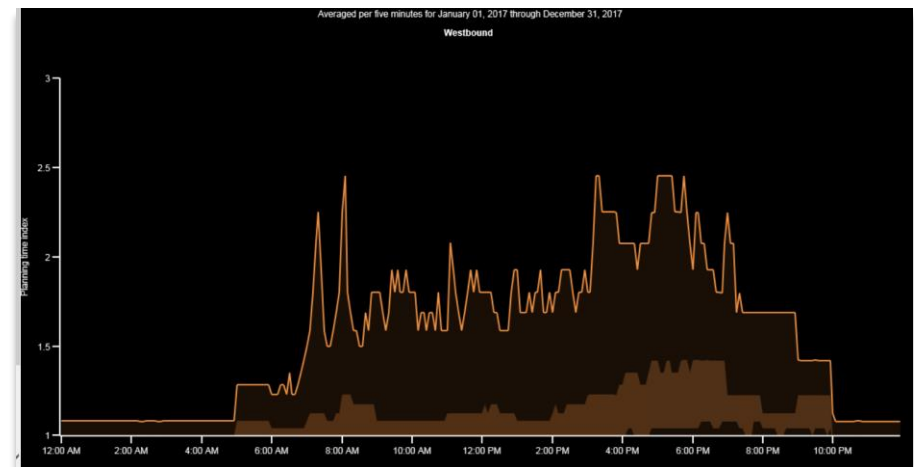
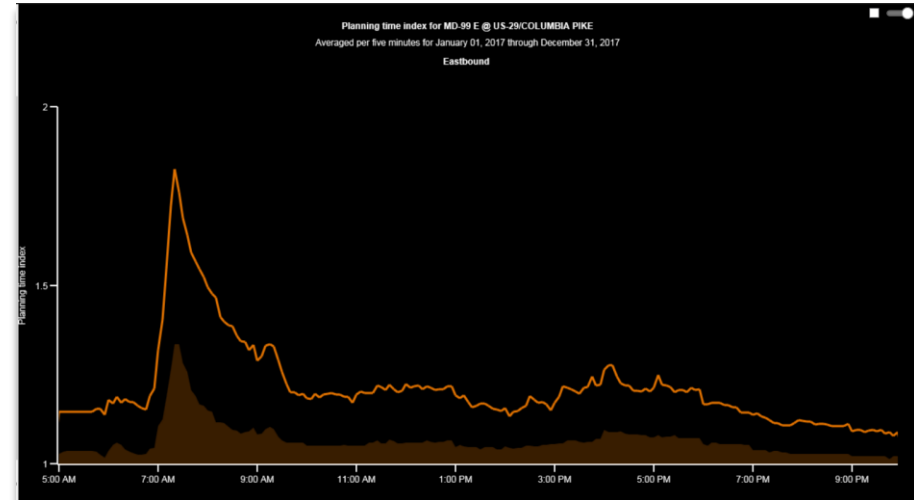
2:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Bethany Lane:

Westbound (evening)

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

During these congested periods planned travel times exceeds free flow travel time by more than 10%.



Existing Conditions - Safety



US 29/Rogers Avenue

- In 2016, MDOT SHA adjusted the signal phasing for MD 99 at US 29 to increase the number of gaps at Old St. Johns Lane/McKenzie Road.
- In 2017, the Estates at Patapsco Park development a second westbound left-turn lane from Rogers Avenue to southbound US 29 was constructed and the signal was modified to include an exclusive left-turn phase.

Marriottsville Road

- In 2009, MDOT SHA modified the signal phasing at Marriottsville Road providing an Exclusive/Permissive phase for northbound left-turn.
- In 2013, MDOT SHA removed the passing zone along MD 99 west of Marriottsville Road beginning at residence # 11420 and extending westerly for 670 feet. The zone did not meet minimum passing zone length for the posted speed limit.
- In 2015 this intersection was reconstructed as part of the Waverly Woods development to provide a second through lane along Marriottsville Road.

Bethany Lane

- Has a history of angle crashes prior to 2016, majority of them were property damage only. MDOT SHA adjusted the signal timing during the evening peak hour at Bethany Lane to help the left turns at MD 99/Bethany Lane intersection.

Improvements along MD 99 since 2008, cont.



- 2013: MDOT SHA installed signs and pavement marking along eastbound **MD 99 at Old St. Johns Lane** to delineate a short deceleration lane and removed a portion of the centerline to indicate to motorist the existence of intersection at this location.

MDOT SHA modified the pavement marking along the **Bethany Lane and Old Mill Road** approaches as part of the Enclave at Ellicott Station property redevelopment project located in the northwest corner of the intersection providing a separate left-turn lane and a through/right turn lane along both side road approaches.

- 2016: MDOT SHA modified the pavement marking along **westbound MD 99 at Melba** to allow a through movement from the left lane. Before this improvement, through vehicles merged into the outside through lane while residents turned left at the intersection causing traffic operation issues during the peak evening hours.

MDOT SHA installed new School Photo Enforced signs along **MD 99 at North Farm Road, Weatherburn Road, and Waverly Wood Drive.**

Improvements along MD 99, ongoing



MDOT SHA provides routine maintenance and operations including:

- Review and upgrade of existing signs,
- Pavement marking, delineators, signal retiming and repairs, pavement repairs/rehabilitation
- Intersection lighting repairs,
- Selective tree trimming and brush control to improve sight distance.

Last preventive maintenance to pavement along MD 99 was done in 2015.

Final Product



Report from the Office of Transportation (Fall 2018)

- Summary of investigation
- Recommendations
- Recommended next steps

Will be made public, presentation

Comments? Questions?

More Information:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation/Transportation-Projects/Maryland-Route-99-Investigation>

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