

## **Roadside Tree Law Effective October 1, 2009**

Please be advised that the new Maryland State Bill 581-Roadside Tree Law shall take effect October 1, 2009. SB 581 –Natural Resources- Roadside trees-Protection and enforcement bill prohibits local jurisdiction from issuing a building permit that will result in specific impacts on roadside trees in the public right-of-way until a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit is obtained.

The SB 581 states “A county or municipality may not issue a building permit to an applicant for any clearing, construction, or development that will result in the trimming, cutting, removal, or injury of a roadside tree until the applicant first obtains a permit from the Department (DNR) in accordance with this section.”

Therefore, starting October 1, 2009 prior to issuance of any building permit by Department of Permitting Services, the applicant must obtain a Roadside Tree Permit from the Maryland DNR Forest Service if a roadside tree may be damaged as result of the construction.