



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

PUBLIC NOTICE

Al R. Roshdieh
Director

January 7, 2019

In compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303), hereinafter referred to as "Section 4(f)," and its implementing regulations codified at 23 CFR Part 774, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is notifying the public through this notice that it will request the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding in accordance with Section 4(f) regarding the permanent effects of the proposed Replacement of Garrett Park Road Bridge over Rock Creek, and to provide the opportunity for public review and comment of this proposed determination.

Section 6009(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) allows the FHWA to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on protected resources. With respect to publicly owned parks and recreation areas, a finding of *de minimis* impact may occur if a transportation project does not "adversely affect the activities, features and attributes" of the Section 4(f) resource. When this is the case, FHWA requires written concurrence from the official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource. Public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required.

The purpose of this project is to provide a safe roadway condition for the traveling public and to improve pedestrian/bicycle safety. The proposed work includes the removal of the existing structure and construction of a new crossing, reconstruction of the roadway approaches, bike trail construction, and stormwater management, among other related improvements. The new bridge will be at the same location as the existing and will provide a minimum of two 16' lanes plus a 10' bike trail with one 1' offset from the edge of the trail to the proposed railing, separated from the roadway with a raised curb. The approach roadway work will be limited to 250 feet on each approach to the structure and will be transitioned to the existing open section roadway. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation Division of Transportation Engineering (MCDOT-DTE) will attempt to maintain the existing vertical profile. A traffic detour route around the site will utilize existing roads. A temporary shared-use path bridge will be constructed to the north of the bridge over Rock Creek during the bridge replacement work. The Montgomery County 2013 and 2018 Bridge Inspection Reports found that the load carrying capacity is reduced enough to warrant a high priority for full bridge replacement. In addition, other design issues, such as outdated bridge railings for vehicle crash safety need corrected. This bridge is considered structurally deficient due to the condition of the substructure. The

Division of Transportation Engineering

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replacement bridge will be a three span 163-foot long structure (with individual span lengths of 44', 75' and 44'), consisting of five Next 36F pre-stressed concrete beams with a reinforced concrete deck. The beams will be supported on new reinforced concrete abutments and concrete piers. The new bridge will be widened to the north to provide a 32-foot clear roadway width that will accommodate two 16-foot travel lanes. In addition, there will be an 11'-8" wide shared-use path along the north side of the roadway. This shared-use path will allow for the implementation of safe on-road bicycling.

The proposed bridge replacement will require permanent easement and fee simple right-of-way from the Rock Creek Stream Valley Park and the Veirs Mill Local Park, owned by the M-NCPPC. Although the right-of-way required from the recreation area is considered a "use" as defined by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), there will be no negative impact on the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f). MCDOT, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request the FHWA make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). The public is requested to provide comments on this finding.

Written comments regarding the proposed Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact findings may be submitted to the MCDOT Project Manager, Mr. Brian Copley, during the 15-day comment period through **January 21, 2019** by e-mail at brian.copley@montgomerycountymd.gov or by regular mail to:

Montgomery County Department of Transportation
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
ATTN: Mr. Brian Copley