

Parkway Chronicle

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The Public Responds to the Potential Options for Widening the Baltimore-Washington Parkway

The second Public Meeting for the Baltimore-Washington Parkway Widening Feasibility Study took place on November 17, 2011, at the Greenbelt Community Center. The purpose of meeting was to provide the public with an overview of the existing conditions of the study corridor, present and confirm the team's understanding of the comments received during and after the first Public Meeting, and that they have been considered as work has progressed.



Second Public Meeting - November 17, 2011

The major agenda item of the second Public Meeting was the presentation of four potential widening options for the Baltimore-Washington Parkway: AASHTO standards based inside and outside widening options, and National Park Service (NPS) standards based inside and outside widening options.

A significant portion of the meeting was spent by the meeting attendees in breakout groups to thoroughly examine the conceptual engineering plans and provide comments and concerns related to each widening option.

Important Updates

3rd Public Meeting is Coming Up! Get Involved!

February 16, 2012
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Over 40 people attended the second Public Meeting and provided very valuable input regarding the various widening options. The following captures the major themes of the comments received:

- Widening the Parkway, regardless of the use of the additional lane, does not provide a long-term solution to congestion.
- The addition of an extra lane will only increase demand and promote greater environmental impacts.
- Alternative mobility options along the corridor (e.g. extend the Green Line alignment) need consideration.
- Widening may have negative safety implications (e.g. possible degradation in safety due to extra lane and limited gap/clearance between opposite lanes).
- Widening will have negative community impacts (e.g. noise, aggravate barrier within divided communities).
- The aesthetic, historic, and natural values of the Parkway need to be preserved.
- Concern for natural and environmental impacts caused by widening (e.g. impacts on wildlife, trees, air quality, light pollution, heat island effect).



Present Baltimore-Washington Parkway with 2 lanes



Conceptual Baltimore-Washington Parkway with 3 lanes (Widening into existing median area)

Draft Congressional Report

The study team is preparing a draft report to Congress on the findings of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway Widening Feasibility Study. The report will include a discussion on the history of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, describe existing conditions, and summarize the results of the feasibility analysis of the various widening options. An outline of the Congressional report will be presented at the third Public Meeting.

The Study Progresses

Armed with the public's input, the study team continued towards preparation of a draft final report. The four widening options were analyzed in detail and the potential impacts of each option were catalogued. The team's engineers worked with the National Park Service and the Maryland State Highway Administration to develop a concept level cost estimate that was presented at the third Technical Advisory Committee Meeting held on January 19th. A draft of the report to Congress on the feasibility of adding a third north bound and south bound lane to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway is underway. A summary of this report will be presented at the upcoming public meeting on February 16th.

Snow date is March 8, 2012, same time and location.

ATTENTION AREA RESIDENTS, COMMUTERS, EMPLOYERS, AND BUSINESS PEOPLE!!

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
invites you to join us at the third public meeting for the...

Baltimore-Washington Parkway Widening Feasibility Study

February 16, 2012

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Greenbelt Community Center

15 Crescent Road | Greenbelt, MD 20770

Snow date is March 8, 2012, same time and location

For more information:

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FHWA – Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division

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FHWA - Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
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This study will examine the feasibility of adding a third northbound and a third southbound lane to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway between its interchange with I-695 in Anne Arundel County, MD and New York Avenue in the District of Columbia. During this meeting the project team will provide an update from the second public meeting, present the widening option analyses and concept level cost estimate, and information on the draft Congressional Report.

