



Request for Public Comment

Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act- *de minimis* Finding

MD 30 Bus.: North Woods Trail to CSX in Carroll County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is considering community safety and enhancement improvements to the MD 30 Business from North Woods Trail to CSX Railroad in Carroll County. This project is located within the Town of Hampstead which is a Historic District determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places protected under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROJECT

Why is this work necessary and what improvements are proposed?

The urban street reconstruction project will support current and future development in the Town of Hampstead, addressing related traffic demands while improving transportation in surrounding areas.

The proposed work will rehabilitate the roadway, provide ADA compliant sidewalks, curb and gutter, improve sidewalk ramps, crosswalks, driveway entrances and pedestrian signals, upgrade the drainage systems, provide new stormwater management facilities, replace the waterline, modify traffic signals and improve traffic signage as well as landscape and relocate the utilities as necessary.

Why are comments being requested?

Section 6009(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) allows the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on protected resources. With respect to historic resources, 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, the finding of FHWA requires written concurrence from the official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource. In addition, public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required.

What are the impacts to protected Section 4(f) resources?

The improvements at MD 30 Business from North Woods Trail to CSX Railroad will require fee simple right-of-way from the Hampstead Historic District. Although the right-of-way required 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 activities, features, and attributes that qualify for protection under Section 4(f). SHA, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request the Federal Highway Administration make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). The Maryland Historical Trust, as officials with jurisdiction, concurred with the *de minimis* finding on May 8, 2013. The public is requested to provide comments on this finding.

How do I comment?

Please contact Ms. Yuqiong Bai, SHA Project Manager, (410) 545-8816 or toll-free (866) 462-0020 (ybai@sha.state.md.us) or Kelly Lyles, SHA Environmental Manager, (410) 545-8566 or toll-free (866) 527-0502 (klyles@sha.state.md.us); www.roads.maryland.gov.