

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON USE OF GWYNNNS FALLS TRAIL NEAR INTERSECTION OF ANNAPOLIS ROAD AND SOUTH MONROE STREET

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 *De Minimis* Determination

Project Description

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) are studying proposed infrastructure improvements to address traffic needs in the Port Covington area. The improvements being studied are meant to ensure the Interstate 95 (I-95) corridor and major local roads, including Hanover Street, McComas Street, and Key Highway, will continue to connect people to where they live, work, and play in a safe and efficient manner, while supporting the economic development of communities in the south Baltimore region. A large-scale, private development for Port Covington area was previously approved by Baltimore City and is ongoing.

MDTA is requesting your feedback on the following:

The I-95 Access Improvement project could involve the temporary closure of a small portion of the Gwynns Falls Trail along Annapolis Road, in close proximity to the I-95 overpass. The trail is a recreational area protected by Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

The construction of a new off ramp from I-95 northbound to McComas Street would accommodate the increased transportation demand on I-95 and the surrounding transportation network. A portion of the Gwynns Falls Trail is located along Annapolis Road in proximity to the I-95 overpass, within the anticipated construction area. Trail closure is not anticipated; however, should closure occur for any duration, pedestrian traffic can be maintained through temporary detours. Detour routes that may be proposed include Annapolis Road, Bush Street, Washington Boulevard, Hollins Ferry Road, and Waterview Avenue. No physical changes to the trail are anticipated. Should damage occur to the existing trail due to construction, in-kind replacement will occur.

MDTA and BCDOT seek a Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determination from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the potential temporary closure and construction impacts to this portion of the Gwynns Falls Trail. As defined by FHWA, a *de minimis* impact is one that will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities of a Section 4(f) resource.

Following a 30-day public comment period and concurrence from the Director of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, FHWA can make its *de minimis* impact finding.

Please note that this public notice is specifically for the potential use of Gwynns Falls Trail and NOT for the entire I-95 Access Improvements project. If you have general comments regarding the overall project, provide your comments through the project website at http://mdta.maryland.gov/Capital_Projects/I-95_Access_Study/Home.html or I-95AccessStudy@mdta.maryland.gov.

Please Send Us Your Comments

If you have comments specific to the use of the Gwynns Falls Trail, please submit them by May 28, 2018:

Please send all comments to:

Maryland Transportation Authority

Attn: Ms. Melissa Bogdan

Re: Use of Gwynns Falls Trail

2310 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

Email: mbogdan@mdta.maryland.gov