



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30 (NPS-NACE/RM)

June 11, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the release of the MD 4 at Suitland Parkway Interchange Construction Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment.

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is proposing transportation improvements to the existing intersection of MD 4 and Suitland Parkway. The proposed improvements would require a transfer of National Park Service (NPS) land to SHA at the eastern terminus of the Suitland Parkway. The project area is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Washington D.C., one mile east of the Capital Beltway at the eastern terminus of the Suitland Parkway.

The purpose of this project is to facilitate transportation improvements at the intersection of MD 4 and Suitland Parkway to increase the roadway capacity to meet existing and projected travel demand along the MD 4 corridor. This action is needed because the corridor is currently experiencing excessive traffic congestion, which is projected to increase as future development brings more commuters into the area.

The EA analyzes the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) along with two action alternatives (Alternatives 2 and 3). The selection of alternative 2 or 3 would require a permanent land transfer to facilitate the proposed transportation improvements. Alternative 2 would be a diamond-shaped roundabout interchange requiring approximately nine acres of permanent land transfer. The interchange would include two roundabouts located on Suitland Parkway at the end of the ramps from MD 4. Alternative 3, the preferred alternative, would be a signalized diamond-shaped interchange with a two-lane directional ramp from northbound MD 4 to westbound Suitland Parkway. In addition, the centerline of MD 4 would be shifted approximately 75 feet east to reduce the impacts to Suitland Parkway.

The impacts of the proposed alternatives were assessed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NPS's Director's Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making, which requires that impacts to park resources be analyzed in terms of their context, duration, and intensity (NPS 2001). Several impact topics have been dismissed from further analysis because the proposed action alternatives would have resulted in negligible to no effects upon those resources. No major impacts are anticipated as a result of this project.

Public review copies of the EA will be available at the following locations:

National Capital Parks – East Headquarters
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

Maryland State Highway Administration
Headquarters
707 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Available electronically at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/md4>
(NPS preferred method of receiving comments):

Mailed directly to:

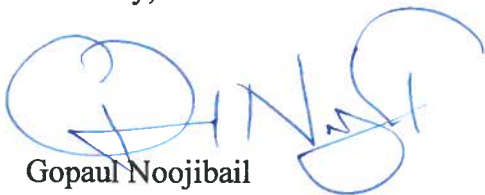
Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East
MD 4 at Suitland Parkway Interchange Construction EA
1900 Anacostia Drive S.E.
Washington, DC 20020

Note to Reviewers and Respondents:

If you wish to comment on this EA, you may mail the comments directly or submit them electronically to NPS. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,



Gopaul Noojibail
Acting Superintendent

bcc:

NACE File

RM File

NACE Mocko

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Parkway EA\notice of availability letter final