

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (PG DPW&T) 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 **Rehabilitation of the Bridge No. P-0581 on Harry S. Truman Drive over Southwest Branch through Southwest Branch Stream Valley Park** and to provide the opportunity for public review and comment of this proposed determination.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act 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, the finding by 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 also required.

The purpose of this bridge rehabilitation project is to remove and replace the deteriorating superstructure, modify the existing substructure units for the new superstructure, reconstruct roadway approaches to meet current codes and remove sediment that has built-up under the north span of the bridge to restore channel conditions. The replacement bridge would be at the same location as the existing bridge and will be a two span 92-foot long structure. The existing pier piles would be used, abutments would remain in place and new abutment caps would be constructed behind the existing abutments. The bridge typical section would consist of two 24 feet clear roadways, two 6 feet wide sidewalks with a parapet on each side, and a raised median varying in width. The approach roadway work would be limited to approximately 450 feet on each approach to the structure. Prince George's County DPW&T would attempt to maintain the existing vertical profile. The construction would be performed in stages so that Harry S. Truman Drive can remain open at the bridge. Channel maintenance (i.e., dredging to remove heavy siltation) is proposed from approximately 125 feet downstream of the Harry S. Truman Drive Bridge to approximately 150 feet upstream of the Harry S. Truman Drive Bridge to restore the bridge opening to its original condition within the concrete slope protection. This maintenance will restore the hydraulic capacity of the second span and therefore decrease the potential for upstream flooding. The existing concrete slope protection on each side of the channel will not be disturbed.

The bridge rehabilitation would involve temporary construction right-of-way impacts to Southwest Branch Stream Valley Park, managed by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and impacts to Southwest Branch and tree canopy within the concrete slope protection that lies within the park. Although temporary construction right-of-way impacts and permanent impacts to environmental resources within parkland are considered a "use" as defined by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), there would be no negative impact on the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f).

PG DPW&T is currently seeking concurrence with M-NCPPC, as officials with jurisdiction, regarding the *de minimis* finding. The public is requested to provide comments on this finding. Comments regarding the proposed Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact findings may be submitted to PG DPW&T in writing or email to Unmesh Patel P.E. Project Manager during the 15-day comment period; the comment deadline is July 30, 2019. Written comments may be provided to: UCPatel@co.pg.md.us

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