



**For Immediate Release**

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**MDOT SHA, Federal Highway Administration Extend  
Public Comment Period for I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study’s  
Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

*Extended Public Comment Period will end November 30*

**BALTIMORE, MD (November 12, 2021)** – The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today announced a 15-day extension of the public comment period for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), which is being developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Considering input and requests, MDOT SHA and FHWA has extended the 45-day SDEIS public comment period to 60 days. The public will now have until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, November 30, 2021, to submit comments on the SDEIS.

The SDEIS presents results relevant to Alternative 9 – Phase 1 South: American Legion Bridge I-270 to I-370, which was identified in May 2021 by FHWA and MDOT SHA as the Preferred Alternative under the Managed Lanes Study.

While the Managed Lanes Study considers ways to relieve congestion and improve trip reliability, mobility and connectivity for all modes of travel in the National Capital Region – including transit – the Preferred Alternative focuses on replacing the 60-year-old American Legion Bridge and delivering two high occupancy toll (HOT) managed lanes in each direction within Phase 1 South: American Legion Bridge I-270 to I-370. The SDEIS builds upon the analysis and information in the existing Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) but is limited to providing new information about the Preferred Alternative.

On I-495, Phase 1 South consists of adding two new HOT managed lanes in each direction from the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Fairfax County, Va., to east of MD 187, Old Georgetown Road. On I-270, Phase 1 South consists of converting the one existing HOV lane in each direction to a HOT managed lane and adding one new HOT managed lane in each direction from I-495 to north of I-370, and on the I-270 east and west spurs. Transit buses, motorcycles and HOV 3+ vehicles – those carrying three or more people – would be permitted to use the managed lanes toll free. There is no action, or no improvements, included at this time on I-495 east of the I-270 east spur.

The Preferred Alternative - Phase 1 South in the SDEIS has significantly reduced impacts and shorter



limits than the Build Alternatives included in the [DEIS](#) and is based largely on the nearly 3,000 comments received from the public and stakeholders as part of the [DEIS](#) public hearings and public comment period.

The Managed Lanes Study complements Virginia's I-495 Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project and the joint Maryland and Virginia I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan. The Managed Lanes Study further extends the network of travel options with HOT managed lanes by expanding upon the collective efforts to rebuild the American Legion Bridge. The potential construction of managed lanes in both states represents an opportunity to implement new bus transit service options that take advantage of this infrastructure and provide riders with reliable trip times for travel between the states.

Prior to providing comments before the new November 30 deadline, the public is encouraged to review the online presentation and copy of the SDEIS available at [OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS](http://OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS). Hard copies of the SDEIS and electronic copies of the SDEIS technical reports also are available for review at multiple library locations in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as one in Fairfax County, Va., and one in Washington, D.C. For a list of these locations, please visit [OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS](http://OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS).

To comment on the SDEIS, stakeholders may provide verbal testimony by dialing 855-432-1483 and leaving a single voicemail message limited to three minutes. In addition, those interested in providing written comments may:

- submit an electronic comment form at [OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS](http://OpLanesMD.com/SDEIS);
- email at [oplanesMLS@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:oplanesMLS@mdot.maryland.gov);
- send a written letter about the SDEIS to:  
Jeffrey T. Folden, PE, DBIA  
Director, I-495 & I-270 P3 Office  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert St.  
Mail Stop P-601  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Following the 60-day public comment period, MDOT SHA and FHWA will consider comments received and will respond to substantive comments on both the SDEIS and DEIS in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Comments received or postmarked after the close of the comment period will be reviewed and considered to the extent practicable.

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