

8 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Outreach to and engagement with the public, stakeholders and agencies has continued since the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in July of 2020, including the outreach associated with the Supplemental DEIS (SDEIS). The following provides an overview of the extensive outreach and engagement that has occurred over the course of the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study (Study).

DEIS, Chapter 7: https://www.oplanesmd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-06-02_DEIS_07_PIA_Coordination.pdf

DEIS, Appendix P: https://www.oplanesmd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DEIS_AppP_PITR_web.pdf

SDEIS, Chapter 7: https://oplanesmd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SDEIS_07_Pi-Agency-Coord.pdf

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) chapter summarizes and updates coordination from July 2020 through April 2022, including:

- The public involvement efforts during the DEIS and SDEIS Comment Periods, including specific outreach to environmental justice populations,
- Stakeholder and community engagement,
- Agency coordination that has occurred related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Permitting, Section 106 and Section 4(f) coordination; and
- Incorporation of public, agency and stakeholder comments into the study.

8.1 Introduction

A comprehensive public involvement and agency coordination program has been conducted throughout the Study. This chapter summarizes the outreach, engagement, and agency consultation that has occurred since publication of the DEIS on July 10, 2020, includes the outreach and engagement that occurred with the publication of the SDEIS on October 1, 2021, and includes an update since the SDEIS to publication of this FEIS. Detailed public involvement and agency coordination efforts that occurred from publication of the Notice of Intent in 2018 to publication of the DEIS in 2020 are included in **DEIS, Appendix P, Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Technical Report**.

This chapter also summarizes the key ways in which the lead agencies were responsive to public, stakeholder and agency comments including, but not limited to, identifying a Preferred Alternative that avoids all residential and business displacements and significantly avoids and minimizes impacts to natural, cultural and community resources, incorporating commitments to further enhance the environment and water quality, improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and support transit connectivity and mobility. Refer to **Chapters 3 and 5** and **Section 8.4** of this Chapter for more details.

Additional details on the public involvement efforts, outreach materials, summaries from the public meetings, and agency coordination, summarized in the subsequent sections, is provided throughout the *Final Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix R)*. Additional detail

on select agency correspondence received on the project is provided in the *Select Agency Correspondence Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix S)*.

8.2 Public Involvement

8.2.1 DEIS Notice of Availability and Comment Period

The DEIS was published on July 10, 2020 and was made available on the I-495 & I-270 Public-Private Partnership (P3) Program webpage (<https://oplanesmd.com/DEIS/>) and on the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Database webpage. The DEIS comment period was 123-days, from July 10, 2020 to November 9, 2020.

Opportunities to comment on the DEIS were provided by the following ways:

- Oral testimony at the In-Person or Virtual Public Hearings
- Private oral testimony to a court reporter at an In-Person Public Hearing in a separate room
- Online DEIS comment form at <https://oplanesmd.com/DEIS/>
- Email to MLS-NEPA-P3@mdot.maryland.gov
- Written comments on a comment form at an In-Person Public Hearing
- Letters to Lisa B. Choplin, DBIA, I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Director, I-495 & I-270 P3 Office, 707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601, Baltimore MD 21202
- Call-in line to provide verbal comment through voicemail

Four virtual or online hearings were held during the DEIS Comment Period on the following days:

- Tuesday, August 18, 2020
- Thursday, August 20, 2020
- Tuesday, August 25, 2020
- Thursday, September 3, 2020

Two in-person hearings were held during the DEIS Comment Period on:

- Tuesday, September 1, 2020
- Thursday, September 10, 2020

To provide persons without electronic access to view the DEIS in hard copy, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) employed innovative approaches due to widespread closures of many public facilities, including libraries, caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the closures of public facilities, temporary facilities to house the DEIS for public review were provided at eight community-based public library parking lot locations along the study corridors, as well as one location in Washington, DC. Lobbies at six centrally-located post offices in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties were also used for DEIS viewing locations. Locations were available during the week and weekend days, with day and evening hours to provide adequate options for the public to view the documents. Lastly, six select MDOT SHA, Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) offices within or near the study area were also open to the public for viewing of the DEIS and Technical Reports. Each DEIS viewing location was compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and equipped with required Personal Protective Equipment, including masks, hand sanitizers, and antibacterial cleaning solution. A strict safety protocol, in compliance with the State-mandated COVID-19 guidelines, was

followed to ensure the safety of the public and MDOT SHA staff. Refer to **Table 7-1** in **SDEIS, Chapter 7** for a full list of the DEIS viewing locations.

The extensive and innovative efforts to provide opportunity for public comment on the DEIS was unprecedented in Maryland. MDOT SHA and FHWA successfully held four virtual public hearings, each lasting nine hours, to maximize the opportunity for participation throughout the day. The virtual public hearings were held on the following dates from 9 AM to 8 PM (including two short breaks):

- Tuesday, August 18, 2020;
- Thursday, August 20, 2020;
- Tuesday, August 25, 2020; and
- Thursday, September 3, 2020.

Approximately 400 people participated in the virtual public hearings.

Two, in-person public hearings were also held in early September 2020, each lasting nine hours, in full compliance with State-mandated COVID-19 guidelines to keep both the public and staff safe. In-person hearings included a live presentation repeated at the beginning of the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. The in-person public hearings were held on the following dates from 12 PM to 9 PM (including one short break):

- Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at Homewood Suites by Hilton (9103 Basil Court, Largo, MD 20774); and
- Thursday, September 10, 2020, at Hilton Executive Meeting Center (1750 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852).

A total of 22 people attended the in-person public hearings.

Each virtual and in-person hearing could be listened to live via phone to accommodate persons without access to a computer. The public and elected officials could register to provide verbal testimony in advance or during both the virtual and in-person hearings and had the option to provide voicemail testimony during any of the six public hearings. Members of the public were allotted three minutes and elected officials were allotted five minutes, per person, for verbal testimony. Responses to questions were not given at the hearing; responses to comments are provided in this FEIS. The virtual hearings held were live-streamed on YouTube with automatic closed captioning. For full transparency, the recorded testimony was transcribed and posted on the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program webpage (<https://oplanesmd.com/your-participation/past-public-outreach/>) along with the in-person public hearing testimony transcripts. Plain-text versions of the presentation script and display boards were also uploaded to the program website so that website visitors may use Google translate and/or text-to-voice programs for the visually impaired.

The MDOT SHA and FHWA granted a 30-day extension of the public comment period for the DEIS. A 90-day comment period was originally provided on the DEIS, twice the minimum time required by FHWA. Based on input from the public, community partners, stakeholders and local and federal officials, MDOT SHA supported extending the comment period to 120 days and made a formal request to FHWA, which

has authority to grant any extension. FHWA approved the request, and comments on the DEIS were accepted until November 9, 2020.

Refer to *Appendix A* of the *Final Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix R)* for outreach materials from the DEIS public comment period. For a summary of comments received on the DEIS and responses to common themes, refer to **FEIS, Chapter 9**. Individual comments and responses as well as transcripts of oral testimony received for the DEIS are included in **FEIS, Appendix T**.

8.2.2 SDEIS Notice of Availability and Comment Period

The SDEIS was published on October 1, 2021 and was made available on the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program webpage (<https://oplanesmd.com/sdeis/>), USEPA EIS Database webpage, as well as 18 public libraries in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Fairfax Counties and Washington DC (refer to **Table 8-1**). MDOT SHA and FHWA granted a 15-day extension of the public comment period for the SDEIS, which lasted 60 days from October 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021.

Opportunities to comment on the SDEIS were provided by the following ways:

- Oral testimony at the Virtual Public Hearing, on November 1, 2021
- Online SDEIS comment form at <https://oplanesmd.com/SDEIS/>
- Email to MLS-NEPA-P3@mdot.maryland.gov
- Letters to Jeffrey T. Folden, P.E., DBIA, I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Deputy Director, I-495 & I-270 P3 Office, 707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601, Baltimore MD 21202
- Call-in line to provide verbal comment through voicemail

The SDEIS Virtual Public Hearing was held on November 1, 2021 with two sessions to provide the public an opportunity to provide live oral testimony on the SDEIS. Session 1 was from 2 PM to 4 PM and Session 2 was from 6 PM to 8 PM. Individuals were required to register in advance to be admitted to the phone queue for comment. Members of the public were allotted three minutes and elected officials were allotted five minutes, per person, for verbal testimony. Responses to questions were not given at the hearing; responses to comments are provided in this FEIS. A total of 35 people attended the virtual public hearing.

In addition to verbal public testimony, stakeholders were able to provide one-on-one testimony during the call-in hearing sessions by calling and leaving a single voicemail message limited to three minutes. The public could listen live to the hearing sessions via telephone to accommodate persons without access to a computer or via livestream at <https://oplanesmd.com/SDEIS/>. For full transparency, the recorded testimony was posted on the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program webpage (<https://oplanesmd.com/your-participation/past-public-outreach/>). Plain-text versions of the presentation script and display boards were also uploaded to the program website so that website visitors may use Google translate and/or text-to-voice programs for the visually impaired.

To provide persons without electronic access to view the SDEIS in hard copy, MDOT SHA and FHWA provided 18 SDEIS viewing locations. These locations and hours when the facility was open for viewing the documentation are included in **Table 8-1**.

Table 8-1: SDEIS Viewing Locations

COUNTY		LOCATION	VIEWING TIMES
1	Montgomery	GAITHERSBURG LIBRARY 18330 Montgomery Village Ave Gaithersburg, MD 20879	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
2	Montgomery	QUINCE ORCHARD LIBRARY 15831 Quince Orchard Rd Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
3	Montgomery	ROCKVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY* 21 Maryland Ave Rockville, MD 20850	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
4	Montgomery	POTOMAC LIBRARY 10101 Glenolden Dr Potomac, MD 20854	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
5	Montgomery	DAVIS LIBRARY 6400 Democracy Blvd Bethesda, MD 20817	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
6	Montgomery	KENSINGTON PARK LIBRARY 4201 Knowles Ave Kensington, MD 20895	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
7	Montgomery	CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY 8005 Connecticut Ave Chevy Chase, MD 20815	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
8	Montgomery	SILVER SPRING LIBRARY 900 Wayne Ave Silver Spring, MD 20910	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
9	Montgomery	WHITE OAK LIBRARY 11701 New Hampshire Ave Silver Spring, MD 20904	Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Tue & Thu: 12 - 8 PM
10	Prince George's	BELTSVILLE LIBRARY 4319 Sellman Rd Beltsville, MD 20705	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM
11	Prince George's	GREENBELT LIBRARY* 11 Crescent Rd Greenbelt, MD 20770	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM
12	Prince George's	NEW CARROLLTON LIBRARY 7414 Riverdale Rd New Carrollton, MD 20784	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM
13	Prince George's	GLENARDEN LIBRARY 8724 Glenarden Pkwy Glenarden, MD 20706	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM
14	Prince George's	LARGO-KETTERING LIBRARY 9601 Capital Ln Upper Marlboro, MD 20772	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM
15	Prince George's	SPAULDINGS LIBRARY 5811 Old Silver Hill Rd District Heights, MD 20747	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM
16	Prince George's	OXON HILL LIBRARY 6200 Oxon Hill Rd Oxon Hill, MD 20745	Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM Wed: 12 - 8 PM Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM

COUNTY		LOCATION	VIEWING TIMES
17	Fairfax	DOLLY MADISON LIBRARY 1244 Oak Ridge Ave McLean, VA 22101	Mon & Tue: 10 AM – 9 PM Wed, Thu, Fri & Sat: 10 AM – 6 PM
18	Washington DC	SHEPHERD PARK LIBRARY 7420 Georgia Ave NW Washington, DC 20012	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM Thu: 12 - 8 PM

*The Rockville and Greenbelt libraries had hard copies of the SDEIS and Technical Reports available. All other libraries had the technical reports on USB flash drives

Refer to *Appendix B* of the *Final Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix R)* for outreach materials from the SDEIS public comment period. For a summary of comments received on the SDEIS and responses to common themes, refer to **FEIS, Chapter 9**. Individual comments and responses as well as transcripts of oral testimony received for the SDEIS are included in **FEIS, Appendix T**.

8.2.3 Public Outreach with Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations

An Environmental Justice (EJ) population is a population concentration of minority race and ethnicity individuals and/or low-income households that meets federal definitions. As documented in the EJ Analysis in **Chapter 5, Section 21** of the FEIS, EJ populations have been identified along the study corridors and are shown in **Figure 8-1**.

Providing full and fair access to meaningful involvement by low-income and minority populations in project planning and development is an important aspect of EJ. Meaningful involvement means the lead agencies invites participation from populations typically underrepresented, throughout all the project stages. Due to the highly diverse demographics composing the population adjacent to and using the study corridors, much of the corridor-wide public involvement efforts conducted for the Study were aimed at reaching this socioeconomically diverse audience. This chapter highlights the public involvement efforts conducted in or near EJ populations, as well as additional efforts to outreach and engage with traditionally underserved populations.

In addition to standard public notifications of the availability of the DEIS and notification of the Public Hearings and associated comment period, MDOT SHA implemented additional notification methods to encourage meaningful involvement by low-income and minority race/ethnicity populations, as well as other traditionally marginalized populations in review of the DEIS and participation in the Public Hearings. These efforts include the following:

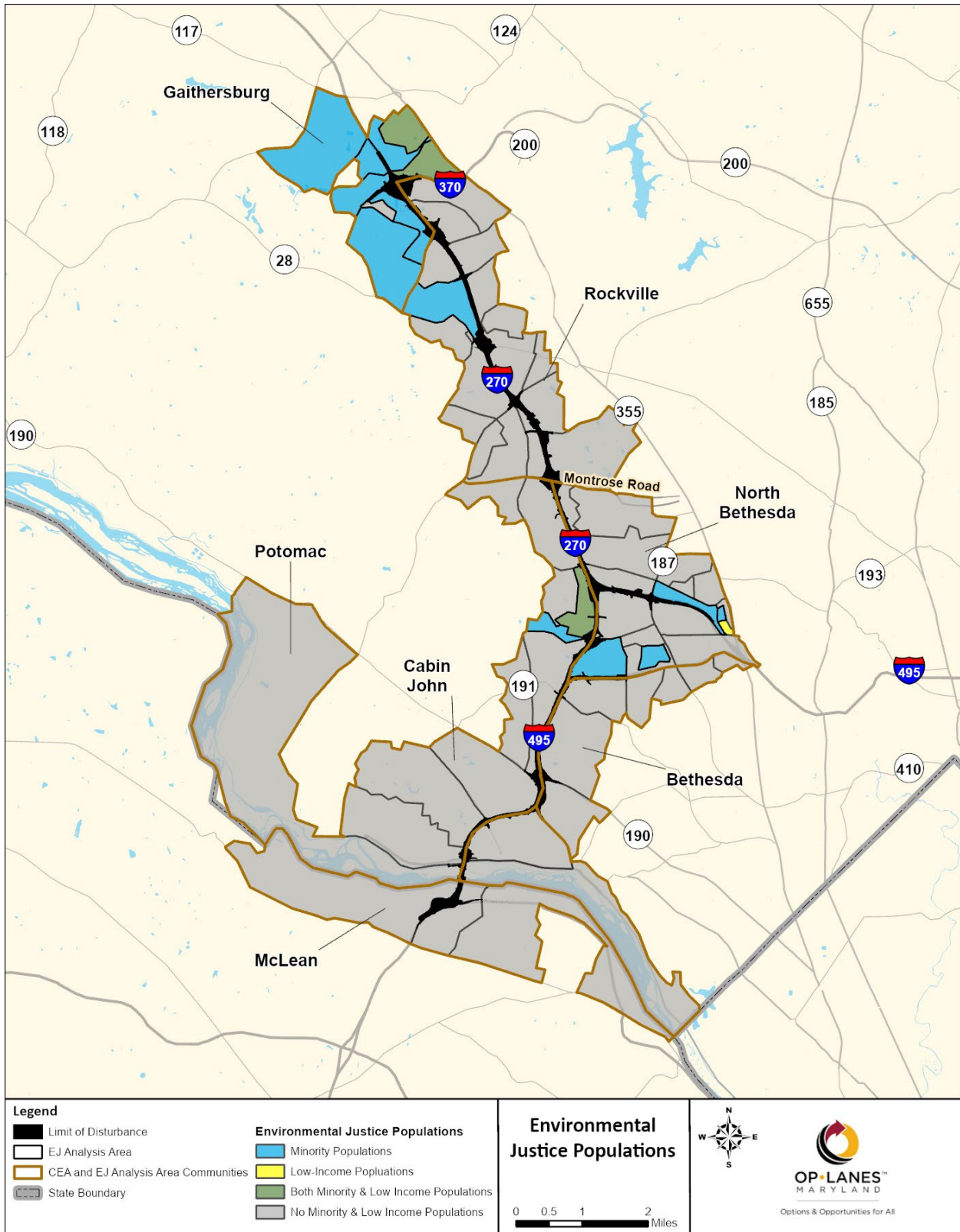
- Mailed flyers in English, Spanish, Amharic, and French¹ flyers to approximately 200 affordable housing complexes, schools, and places of worship² in the study area. Emailed PDFs of these flyers to the organizations that have email addresses listed online. A cover letter was sent with both forms of distribution.

¹ Spanish, French, and Amharic are the top primary languages of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners in both counties.

² Includes EJ- area schools with above-average participation in the Free and Reduced-price Meals Program; places of worship in EJ areas; and all affordable-housing complexes within the study area.

- Uploaded to the project website the DEIS Executive Summary translated into Spanish, Amharic, and French. All DEIS documents were made Section 508-compliant on the project website.
- Provided hard copies of the translated DEIS Executive Summary at the DEIS viewing locations.
- Spanish language advertisements in *El Tiempo Latino*, *Washington Hispanic*, and on eltiempo.com.
- Additional County outreach:
 - Montgomery County News press release;
 - Inclusion in Montgomery County Executive’s weekly newsletter;
 - Inclusion in Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) bi-weekly newsletter and social media posts;
 - Distribution of flyer via Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Prince George’s County Planning email databases;
 - Planning Department listserv with approximately 19,200 email addresses;
 - Community Association listserv with approximately 700 email addresses;
 - Inclusion in Prince George’s County social media posts; and
 - Coordination with Prince George’s County Faith-Based Advisory Board to distribute information to their ministry listserv with approximately 70 email addresses.
- Additional translation of flyer to Chinese, Korean, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tagalog, and Yoruba, uploaded to the project website, and distribution of hard copies to groceries largely serving immigrant communities.
 - ALDI (Beltsville, Lanham)
 - Anarkali Bazar (Greenbelt)
 - Giant Food (Greenbelt, Largo, Marlow Heights)
 - Global International Grocery (Silver Spring)
 - Great Wall Supermarket (Rockville)
 - Jumbo Food International Supermarket (Temple Hills)
 - La Colonia International Supermarket (Camp Springs)
 - Las Americas Market (Rockville)
 - Latino Market Grocery (Gaithersburg)
 - Lidl (District Heights)
 - Periyar Asian Grocery (Landover Hills)
 - Safeway (Greenbelt)
 - Save A Lot (Forestville)
 - Shoppers (College Park, Forestville, Largo, New Carrollton)

Figure 8-1: EJ Populations along the Study Corridors



EJ outreach efforts for publication of the SDEIS and notification of the Public Hearing and comment period were similar to the DEIS outreach efforts and included the following:

- Newspaper print advertisements in *El Tiempo Latino*, *Washington Hispanic* and digital advertisements on *DCBlack.com*, *Afro.com*, and *Eltiempo.com*.
- Developed a flyer to outreach to EJ populations that featured an emphasis on SDEIS availability, ways to comment, and the announcement of Virtual Public Hearings; the flyer included a QR code to link to SDEIS availability on the project website. The flyer was translated into in Spanish, Amharic, French, Chinese, and Korean based on the top languages spoken by limited English proficiency (LEP) populations in Montgomery County as identified in the 2020 MCDOT *Language Assistance Plan*.
- Mailed flyer to approximately 200 affordable housing complexes, schools, and places of worship along the study corridors. PDFs of these flyers were emailed to the organizations that have email addresses listed online. A cover letter was sent with both forms of distribution.
- Mailed flyers to county advisory boards and community groups who serve minority race and ethnicity and other traditionally marginalized populations. PDFs of these flyers were emailed to the organizations that have email addresses listed online. A cover letter was sent with both forms of distribution.
 - Montgomery County
 - Faith Community Advisory Council
 - Gilchrest Immigrant Resource Center
 - Department of Housing and Community Affairs
 - Community Reach, Commission on People with Disabilities
 - Health and Human Services Latino Health Initiative
 - Literacy Council
 - DOT Division of Transit Services
 - Health and Human Services Office of Community Affairs
 - Office of Community Partnerships
 - Sidney Kramer Upcountry Regional Services Center
 - Health and Human Services Asian American Health Initiative
 - Office of Community Relations
 - Department of Social Services Internal and External Affairs
 - Prince George's Housing Authority
 - Prince George's Community Outreach Promoting Empowerment Section (COPE)
 - Literacy Council of Prince George's County
 - Prince George's Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Additional translation of flyer to Chinese, Korean, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tagalog, and Yoruba, uploaded to the project website, and distribution of hard copies to groceries largely serving immigrant communities in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Additionally, translated versions of the SDEIS Executive Summary were posted to the project website, and all SDEIS documents were made Section 508-compliant on the project website.

Refer to *Appendix G* of the *Final Community Effects Assessment and Environmental Justice Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix F)* for EJ outreach materials used for the notification and public comment periods associated with the DEIS and SDEIS.

Since the DEIS publication and in response to comments from the USEPA, an EJ Working Group was established to support the EJ analysis and outreach efforts to be conducted for the Study moving forward. Agency members include FHWA, USEPA, MDOT SHA, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), MCDOT, M-NCPPC, and Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). The goals of the EJ Working Group are to:

- Develop potential mitigation measures should high and adverse disproportionate impacts occur and identify additional outreach opportunities using federal, state, and local experience; and
- Identify potential commitments to EJ/public health mitigation measures related to social/health vulnerability indicators; and
- Identify recommendations for additional engagement opportunities including FEIS notifications and post-NEPA outreach to communities.

Since the DEIS was published, three meetings of the EJ Working Group were held in 2021 (**Table 8-2**) with additional coordination via email and resulted in development implementation of an additional EJ engagement initiative in the Fall of 2021.

Table 8-2: EJ Working Group Meetings and Coordination

DATE	AGENDA ITEMS
March 2, 2021	Kick-off Meeting; Agency member introductions and establishing goals
April 7, 2021	Data collection to support existing conditions discussion in EJ Analysis; Discussion on EJ Public Outreach Plan and future opportunities; Mitigation considerations
September 15, 2021	Draft EJ Outreach and Engagement Plan Through SDEIS/FEIS/ROD
November 9, 2021	Final EJ Outreach and Engagement Plan

In the Fall of 2021, MDOT SHA underwent an additional outreach effort with the purpose of providing opportunities for meaningful engagement with underserved communities directly or indirectly affected by the proposed improvements. The EJ Outreach and Engagement Plan focused on engaging with individuals to learn about concerns and hear recommendations on community betterments that could be implemented as part of the project. The EJ Outreach and Engagement Plan was developed and discussed with: the EJ Working Group; the Director of University of Maryland’s Center for Community Engagement Environmental Justice and Health; City of Rockville; City of Gaithersburg; and Montgomery County Advisory Group Leads, including:

- African Affairs Advisory Group
- Asian Pacific Advisory Group
- Caribbean American Advisory Group
- Faith Community Advisory Council
- Latin American Advisory Group
- LGBTQ Advisory Group
- Middle Eastern American Advisory Group
- Senior Community Advisory Group

MDOT SHA developed an online survey to seek feedback from EJ and other underserved populations on existing community concerns and strategies that could be implemented to address those concerns. The survey was distributed in a variety of ways including through multiple community “pop-up” events hosted by MDOT SHA at local specialty markets in areas noted as having high percentages of low-income and/or minority populations (**Table 8-3**). These community events allowed for meaningful, direct face-to-face engagement. Community members were able to complete the survey on iPads and ask questions of the staff. Multi-lingual staff were present at each pop-up event.

Table 8-3: Additional EJ Engagement

DATE	ORGANIZATION
November 10, 2021	Great Wall Supermarket (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 13, 2021	Lotte Plaza Market (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 19, 2021	Megamart (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 19, 2021	H Mart (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 20, 2021	Adarash Market (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 20, 2021	Lotte Plaza Market (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 23, 2021	Patel Brothers Farms Market (Pop-up Event with informational booth)

The survey was open for approximately six weeks, allowing respondents to complete the questions at their own pace. In addition to English, the survey was provided in Spanish, French, Amharic, Chinese, and Korean— the same top five non-English spoken languages that DEIS and SDEIS materials were translated into based on Montgomery County’s Department of Transportation 2020 *Language Assistance Plan*. The survey is provided in *Appendix H* of the *Community Effects Assessment and Environmental Justice Analysis Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix F)*.

In addition to the direct face-to-face engagement, postcards, flyers, yard signs, targeted social media, local agency and community organization coordination were used to promote the survey. Promotional materials included a QR code with a direct link to the survey online; the flyer also included the survey questions themselves. All materials were translated into the top five non-English languages identified above. Postcards and flyers were placed at local health clinics, specialty markets, grocery stores and places of worship. Yard signs with the QR code were placed at affordable housing complexes and near bus transit stations. In addition, an email with the survey was sent to 230 community email addresses informing people about the survey, inviting them to participate, and encouraging them to share the information with their community. Lastly, approximately 49 places of worship were contacted and, where allowed postcards and yard signs with the QR code were distributed.



The survey included three multiple choice questions about potential community betterment and needs, and one open-ended question asking what other improvements are needed in the respondent’s community. Sixty-one people completed the survey. The following are the most common responses to the multiple-choice questions in the survey.

Question #1: Transportation improvements needed:

1. Better lighting on streets and sidewalks (21%)
2. More or improved sidewalks (17%)
3. Traffic calming to make streets safer (15%)

Question #2: Neighborhood needs:

1. Recreation centers parks, and playgrounds (30%)
2. Sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes (26%)

Question #3: Environmental problems in your community:

1. Water quality (24%)
2. Noise (20%)
3. Safe and healthy housing (20%)



The most common responses to the open-ended question on community improvements needed were:

- Lighting
- Community services
- Safety
- Road (more or better)

MDOT SHA and the Developer will continue coordination with local and regional advisory groups to determine additional methods for engaging with underserved communities. This will be an ongoing effort that continues post-NEPA, through final design and construction.

For additional detail on EJ Engagement Initiatives, refer to the *EJ Outreach Summary Report* in *Appendix H* of the *Community Effects Assessment and Environmental Justice Analysis Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix F)*. Refer to *Appendix C* of the *Final Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix R)* for outreach materials used for the EJ Outreach Initiative.

8.2.4 Other Community Meetings and Stakeholder Outreach Events

Engagement with communities, stakeholders and elected officials continued to occur after the DEIS was published in July 2020 (**Table 8-4**). All meetings except for one were held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The focus of this engagement was to better understand comments received on the DEIS, provide Study related updates, and seek feedback on a host of topics including effects of COVID-19 on traffic, transit opportunities, alternatives design, managed lanes access, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, economic benefits, and environmental concerns. MDOT SHA continued engaging with

stakeholder working groups that were either initiated before the DEIS or developed after including the Transit Working Group, Regional Economic Working Group, and EJ Working Group, as discussed above. In February 2021, MDOT SHA reinitiated meetings, held virtually, with several Homeowners’ Associations (HOA) and Community Associations. Active engagement with stakeholders, communities, and elected official has continued to occur as the Study progressed to this FEIS. On April 6, 2021, an e-mail blast was sent to more than 600 e-mail addresses compiled from the Montgomery County Mailing List Generator for HOA, Citizens and Civic Associations. HOA and Community Association leaders along the study corridor were invited to schedule a project briefing for their community. Ten groups responded and seven briefings were held, and three briefings are planned for later in the year. In addition, MDOT SHA has held over 40 meetings with elected officials. Refer to **FEIS, Appendix R** for additional information on these meetings.

Table 8-4: Stakeholder and Community Meetings Since Publication of the DEIS

DATE	ORGANIZATION
July 9, 2020	Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
July 20, 2020	Montgomery County Council Transportation & Environment Committee Briefing
July 21, 2020	Greater Washington Partnership
September 3, 2020	Stakeholder Group Briefing (Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Chambers of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association)
September 14, 2020	Montgomery County Department of Transportation
September 15, 2020	Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation
September 22, 2020	Prince George’s County Council Briefing
October 5, 2020	Virginia Department of Transportation 495 NEXT Project Public Hearing
October 6, 2020	Frederick County Department of Transportation
October 8, 2020	Virginia Department of Transportation 495 NEXT Project Public Hearing (in-person)
October 26, 2020	Montgomery County Council Transportation and Environment Committee
November 6, 2020	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Opportunity MDOT Networking Event
November 10, 2020	Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance “What You Need to Know About Transportation” Seminar
November 16, 2020	Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board Land Use Committee
November 18, 2020	Greater Washington Partnership Capital Region Transportation Forum
November 20, 2020	Frederick County Department of Transportation
November 20, 2020	Stakeholder Group Update (Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Chambers of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association)
December 1, 2020	Great Seneca Science Corridor IAC
December 4, 2020	Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association Together for Transportation Coalition
December 9, 2020	Montgomery County Business Roundtable
December 18, 2020	Stakeholder Group Update (Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Chambers of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association)

DATE	ORGANIZATION
January 15, 2021	Stakeholder Group Update (Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Chambers of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association)
January 19, 2021	Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance/Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance Joint Briefing
January 19, 2021	MDOT Office of Small Business Policy Small Business Enterprise Outreach Event
January 26, 2021	Transit Work Group
February 3, 2021	Regional Economic Work Group
February 4, 2021	Laborers International Union of North America
February 8, 2021	Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation
February 10, 2021	Leadership Montgomery
February 12, 2021	Asian American Chamber of Commerce
February 19, 2021	Stakeholder Group Update (Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Chambers of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association)
February 19, 2021	MCDOT Office of Small and Minority Small Business Enterprise Outreach
February 24, 2021	Regency Estates Civic Association
February 24, 2021	Conference of Minority Transportation Officials
February 25, 2021	Lantian Development
March 1, 2021	Washington Biologists' Field Club
March 12, 2021	ASHE Potomac Chapter
March 19, 2021	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County
March 30, 2021	Peterson Companies
March 31, 2021	Regional Economic Work Group
April 14, 2021	Frederick County Chamber Transportation Advisory Committee
April 16, 2021	Stakeholder Group Update (Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Chambers of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association)
April 20, 2021	Montgomery County Civic Federation
April 26, 2021	ITE Annual Meeting
April 29, 2021	George Mason University P3 Panel
April 30, 2021	Rubenstein Partners
May 6, 2021	Opportunity MDOT Stakeholders Meeting
May 11, 2021	Avonglen HOA
May 20, 2021	Rosemont Citizens Association
May 25, 2021	Maplewood Park HOA
May 26, 2021	Regional Economic Work Group Steering Committee
June 2, 2021	North Potomac Citizens Association
June 2, 2021	Friends of Moses Hall Cemetery and First Agape AME Zion Church Stakeholder Group
June 8, 2021	Luxmanor Citizens Association

DATE	ORGANIZATION
June 10, 2021	Joint Briefing for Budget Committee Staff
June 11, 2021	Leadership Montgomery
June 15, 2021	Rock Creek Conservancy Advocacy Committee
June 24, 2021	Regional Economic Work Group
July 22, 2021	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County
August 3, 2021	Frederick County Department of Transportation
August 13, 2021	Frederick Keys Baseball Game (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
August 18, 2021	Shady Grove Farmers Market (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
August 28, 2021	Derwood Farmers Market (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
September 4, 2021	Rockville Arts Festival (Pop-up Event with informational booth)
November 29, 2021	Washington Biologists' Field Club
December 20, 2021	Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board
January 12, 2022	Patuxent River Commission
January 18, 2022	Bicycle / Pedestrian Crossing Discussion to the Transportation Planning Board
January 19, 2022	American Society of Civil Engineers Catoclin Branch
February 8, 2022	McLean Citizen's Association- Transportation Subcommittee
March 24, 2022	Washington Biologists' Field Club

Note: All meetings held virtually unless otherwise denoted.

8.3 Agency and Stakeholder Coordination

The FHWA and MDOT SHA actively engaged the Federal, state, regional, and local agencies, as well as the adjacent counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and other agency stakeholders throughout the Study process, simultaneously with other public involvement efforts. Additional detail on agency coordination is provided throughout the **FEIS, Appendix R**. For additional detail on agency correspondence received on the project, refer to the respective technical reports and **FEIS, Appendix S**.

Since the DEIS was published in July 2020, MDOT SHA has continued to meet with FHWA, as the Lead Federal Agency, the Cooperating Agencies and other state and local agencies and stakeholders. The meetings are listed in **Table 8-5** and focused on discussing individual DEIS comments from agencies and stakeholders and working towards a resolution of critical study topics. Other ongoing agency collaboration and consultation has included: Section 106 Consulting Parties meetings, Executive Steering Committee meetings, and the establishment of the EJ Working Group. As a result of this continuous extensive coordination effort, MDOT SHA was able to address many agency and stakeholder comments on the DEIS and SDEIS by choosing a Preferred Alternative that aligns with the phased delivery and permitting approach and avoids all residential and business displacements and significant impact to natural, cultural and historic resources on the top and east sides of I-495, incorporating additional transit and bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and refining the design to further avoid and minimize impacts to resources. Refer to **Section 8.4** of this Chapter and **FEIS, Chapters 3 and 5** for additional details. These efforts were based on the extensive agency coordination as detailed in **Table 8-5** through **Table 8-9**.

Table 8-5: Agency & Stakeholder Coordination Meetings Post-DEIS Publication

DATE	PURPOSE	AGENCIES AND/OR STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED
August 3, 2020	Stream Mitigation Calculator Coordination	US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
August 6, 2020	Water and Science Administration Working Meeting	MDE
August 17, 2020	Park Impacts and Mitigation Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
September 3, 2020	Wetland Mitigation Meeting	National Park Service (NPS) and FHWA
September 21, 2020	Park Impacts and Mitigation Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
September 28, 2020	Park Impacts and Mitigation Meeting	M-NCPPC Prince George's County
September 29, 2020	Informal Section 7 Consultation	US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), FHWA, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
October 5, 2020	Wetland Mitigation Meeting	NPS
October 20, 2020	Park Impacts and Mitigation Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
October 20, 2020	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC Prince George's County and Prince George's County DPW&T
November 2, 2020	Right-of-Way Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
November 23, 2020	Permitting Strategy Meeting	FHWA, USACE, MDE, and USEPA
December 1, 2020	Biweekly FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
December 1, 2020	Northwest Branch Stormwater Management Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
December 2, 2020	Permitting Strategy Meeting	USACE, MDE, USEPA, and FHWA
December 8, 2020	Plummers Island Avoidance and Minimization Efforts Meeting	NPS, MDNR, USFWS, MDE, USACE, and FHWA
December 11, 2020	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County and MCDOT
December 11, 2020	Culvert Field Meeting	USEPA, MDE, USACE and FHWA
December 14, 2020	DEIS Comments Review Meeting	NPS and FHWA
December 15, 2020	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
December 17, 2020	Permitting Strategy Meeting	FHWA, USACE, MDE, and USEPA
January 12, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
January 19, 2021	Issue Resolution Kick-off Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery and Prince George's County
January 20, 2021	Northwest Branch Stormwater Management Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
February 1, 2021	Collaborative Leadership Summit	FHWA, USACE, USEPA, NPS, National Park and Planning Commission (NCP), USFWS, US Postal Service (USPS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS), US NAVY, MDNR, MDE, M-NCPPC, VDOT, Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), MDP, MDTA, Maryland Transit Authority (MTA), MCDOT, and PG DW&T
February 3, 2021	DEIS Comments Review Meeting	NCP and FHWA
February 3, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA

DATE	PURPOSE	AGENCIES AND/OR STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED
February 8, 2021	American Legion Bridge and Baltimore-Washington Parkway Impacts Coordination Meeting	NPS and FHWA
February 9, 2021	Managed Lanes Study (MLS) and I-495 NEXT Coordination Meeting	VDOT
February 9, 2021	DEIS Comments Review Meeting	MDNR and FHWA
February 10, 2021	DEIS Comments Review Meeting	USACE, MDE, and FHWA
February 11, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
February 18, 2021	DEIS Comments Review Meeting	USEPA and FHWA
February 25, 2021	Executive Steering Committee	FHWA, USACE, US Department of Agriculture (USDA), USEPA, NPS, NCPC, USFWS, USPS, NOAA NMFS, US Navy, US Airforce Joint Base Andrews (JBA), MDNR, MDE, M-NCPPC, VDOT, MHT, MDP, MDTA, MTA, MCDOT, and PG DPW&T
February 26, 2021	Carderock and Bethesda Property Impacts Meeting	US Navy and FHWA
March 2, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
March 4, 2021	American Legion Bridge, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) Impacts Coordination Meeting	NPS and FHWA
March 10, 2021	DEIS Comments Review and Stormwater Management Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
March 15, 2021	DEIS Comments Review Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
March 17, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
March 19, 2021	Stormwater Management Meeting	M-NCPPC Prince George's County
March 24, 2021	DEIS Comments Review and Stormwater Management Meeting	M-NCPPC Prince George's County
April 1, 2021	Transportation Use and Property Boundary Meeting	NPS and FHWA
April 6, 2021	American Legion Bridge and Resources Update Meeting	USACE and MDE
April 6, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
April 9, 2021	DEIS Comments Review and Stormwater Management Meeting	M-NCPPC Prince George's County
April 12, 2021	Rock Creek DEIS Comments Review Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
April 13, 2021	Stormwater Management Site Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
May 4, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
May 12, 2021	Phase 1 South Park Impacts and Mitigation Meeting	M-NCPPC Montgomery County
May 18, 2021	SDEIS Air and Noise Coordination Meeting	FHWA
May 26, 2021	Executive Steering Committee	FHWA, USACE, USEPA, NPS, NCPC, USFWS, USPS NOAA NMFS, US Navy, JBA, MDNR, MDE, M-NCPPC, VDOT, MHT, MDP, MDTA, MCDOT, and PG DPW&T

DATE	PURPOSE	AGENCIES AND/OR STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED
June 1, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
June 2, 2021	Moses Hall Cemetery and First Agape AME Zion Church Bicycle and Pedestrian Connection on Seven Locks Road Meeting	First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove, Friends of Moses Hall, M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MCDOT, and FHWA
June 8, 2021	Air Quality Conformity Determination Meeting	FHWA
June 10, 2021	Compensatory Stormwater Management Plan Meeting	FHWA
June 21, 2021	Park Impacts and Mitigation Meeting	NPS and FHWA
June 21, 2021	American Legion Bridge Trail Connection Meeting	M-NCPPC, MCDOT, NPS, and FHWA
June 21, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
June 23, 2021	Transportation Use and Property Boundary Meeting	NPS and FHWA
June 30, 2021	Transportation Use and Property Boundary Meeting	NPS and FHWA
July 7, 2021	Air Quality Conformity	FHWA
July 8, 2021	Transportation Use and Property Boundary Meeting	NPS and FHWA
July 12, 2021	Park Impacts	NCPC, NPS, FHWA
July 13, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
July 14, 2021	NPS Parkland Impacts	FHWA
July 20, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
July 27, 2021	NEPA and Section 106 Process	FHWA
August 3, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
August 9, 2021	Air Quality and Environmental Justice Meeting	FHWA
August 16, 2021	SDEIS Comments	FHWA
August 17, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
August 18, 2021	Highway Deed Easement Process with NPS and SDEIS Comments	FHWA
August 18, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
August 23, 2021	I-495 NEXT and MLS Coordination Meeting	VDOT and Fairfax County Department of Transportation
August 25, 2021	SDEIS Comments	FHWA
August 26, 2021	Air Quality SDEIS Comments	FHWA
August 30, 2021	SDEIS Comments	FHWA
August 31, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT

DATE	PURPOSE	AGENCIES AND/OR STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED
September 1, 2021	Review of Common SDEIS Comments	FHWA, NPS, USACE, USEPA, NCPC, MDE, M-NCPPC, MCDOT
September 7, 2021	Park Mitigation Field Meeting	M-NCPPC
September 7, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
September 14, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
September 16, 2021	Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC, FHWA
September 22, 2021	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
September 27, 2021	Highway Easement Deed Discussion	FHWA
September 28, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
September 28, 2021	Fairfax Board of Transportation Committee	Fairfax County, VDOT
September 29, 2021	I-495 NEXT Virtual Public Meeting	VDOT
September 30, 2021	Coordination Meeting	NPS, VDOT, FHWA
September 30, 2021	Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC, FHWA
October 4, 2021	Leadership Meeting	Montgomery County
October 12, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
October 13, 2021	Noise Wall Discussion	VDOT
October 14, 2021	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
October 14, 2021	Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC, FHWA
October 28, 2021	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
October 28, 2021	Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC, FHWA
November 2, 2021	Tuckerman Lane Bike / Ped Discussion	M-NCPPC
November 2, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
November 5, 2021	Mitigation Field Meeting	M-NCPPC
November 9, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
November 10, 2021	Mitigation Field Meeting	M-NCPPC
November 17, 2021	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
November 18, 2021	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
November 23, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
December 7, 2021	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
December 14, 2021	Environmental Justice: Morningstar Cemetery Discussion	FHWA
December 14, 2021	Mitigation Coordination Meeting	M-NCCPC, FHWA
December 15, 2021	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
January 4, 2022	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
January 6, 2022	Smart Growth Coordination Meeting	MDP
January 7, 2022	Stormwater Management Discussion	M-NCPPC, MDNR, MDE, NOAA, USACE, USEPA, FHWA, USFWS

DATE	PURPOSE	AGENCIES AND/OR STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED
January 11, 2022	I-495 NEXT / Phase 1 South Technical Coordination Meeting	VDOT
January 18, 2022	Maryland and Virginia 495 Interface Technical Coordination	VDOT
January 19, 2022	Coordination Meeting	M-NCPPC, FHWA
January 19, 2022	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
January 27, 2022	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
February 24, 2022	Coordination Meeting	NPS, FHWA
March 8, 2022	Reoccurring FHWA Coordination Meeting	FHWA
March 17, 2022	GWMP Signing Discussion	NPS, FHWA

Note: All meetings held virtually unless otherwise denoted.

Since the DEIS was published in July 2020, MDOT SHA held four virtual Interagency Agency Working Group (IAWG) meetings with members from 27 Cooperating and Participating Agencies. The focus of the IAWG meetings was to provide Study updates, present common DEIS comment themes, discuss proposed responses to common comments, discuss ongoing public and agency collaboration, present avoidance and minimization measures, and to identify the recommended preferred alternative, present justification for recommending the alternative and to listen to feedback on the alternative (**Table 8-6**).

Table 8-6: IAWG Meetings Post-DEIS Publication

DATE	IAWG MEETING #	PURPOSE	AGENCIES REPRESENTED
January 27, 2021	13	Provide MLS Study Update, Review Summary of DEIS Comments, Announce Recommended Preferred Alternative and Associated Commitments, and a New Agency and Stakeholder Collaboration Process	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), USEPA, FHWA, USFWS, MDE, MDNR, MDOT MTA, MDP, MDTA, MHT, M-NCPPC, MCDOT, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), US Navy, NCPC, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), NPS, PG DPW&T, USACE, USPS, and VDOT
February 17, 2021	14	Provide Update on Agency and Stakeholder Collaboration Efforts, Design Efforts to address common DEIS Comments, Review Recommended Preferred alternative	ACHP, USEPA, FHWA, USFWS, MDE, MDNR, MDOT MTA, MDP, MHT, M-NCPPC, MCDOT, MWCOG, US Navy, NCPC, NIST, NPS, PG DPW&T, USACE, USDA, USDA, USPS, VDOT, JBA
May 12, 2021	15	Provide MLS Update, announce a New Recommended Preferred Alternative based off of Agency and Public Feedback, Announce the SDEIS, and Provide an Updated MLS Schedule	ACHP, USEPA, FHWA, USFWS, MDE, MDNR, MDOT MTA, MDOT MDTA, MHT, M-NCPPC, MCDOT, MWCOG, US Navy, NIST, PG DPW&T, USACE, USDA, USPS, VDOT, JBA
December 15, 2021	16	Provide Update on MLS efforts since the SDEIS publication, review of SDEIS Comments, Ongoing activities toward FEIS, and Provide Updated MLS Schedule	ACHP, USEPA, FHWA, USFWS, MDE, MDNR, MDOT MTA, MDOT MDTA, MDP, MHT, M-NCPPC, MCDOT, MWCOG, US Navy, NCPC, NIST, NOAA, NPS, PG DPW&T, USACE, USPS, VDOT

MDOT SHA also met with the City of Rockville and City of Gaithersburg to discuss DEIS comments, property impacts, proposed stormwater management, parkland impacts and mitigation, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, traffic, and structure design within the applicable City’s limits (**Table 8-7**).

Table 8-7: City of Rockville and City of Gaithersburg Meetings Post-DEIS Publication

DATE	MEETING
March 19, 2021	City of Rockville Coordination Meeting
April 14, 2021	City of Rockville Stormwater Management Coordination Meeting
April 29, 2021	City of Rockville Parkland and Mitigation Meeting
July 22, 2021	City of Gaithersburg Parkland and Mitigation Meeting
September 2, 2021	City of Rockville Design, Traffic, and Mitigation Meeting
September 14, 2021	City of Gaithersburg Coordination Meeting
November 4, 2021	City of Rockville Design and Parkland Mitigation Meeting
November 22, 2021	City of Rockville Coordination Meeting
January 19, 2022	City of Rockville Coordination Meeting
April 25, 2022	City of Rockville Coordination Meeting

8.3.1 Natural Resource Agency Coordination

The regulatory and permitting process was conducted concurrently with NEPA and required agency consultation with the goal of gaining approval for a USACE Individual Section 404 Permit; MDE Wetlands and Waterways Permit; USFWS Endangered Species Act Section 7; and MDE 401 Water Quality Certification. These approvals required meetings for the following purposes:

- Jurisdictional Determination;
- Permitting strategy;
- Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation;
- Wetland delineation; and
- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species coordination.

Table 8-8 summarizes the meetings held since July 2020. For additional detail on agency correspondence received on the project regarding natural resources, refer to the **FEIS, Appendix M**.

Table 8-8: Natural Resource Related Meetings Since Publication of the DEIS

DATE	AGENCIES	GENERAL TOPICS COVERED
July 9, 2020	MDE and USACE	Discussion of the logistics of the MLS Joint Public Hearings, both virtual and in-person, for 404/401 purposes
July 21, 2020	MDNR	Review Additional Potential Fish Blockages noted by MDE and USFWS Upstream and Downstream of the Paint Branch Fish Passage Site (AN-6)
July 22, 2020	M-NCPPC Montgomery County	Montgomery County M-NCPPC Comments on the Tributary to Seneca Creek Site (CA-5) Concept Design
July 24, 2020	Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)	Logistics for Proposed Mitigation Site Work Over WSSC Sewer and Water Lines.

DATE	AGENCIES	GENERAL TOPICS COVERED
August 12, 2020	M-NCPPC Montgomery County	Montgomery County M-NCPPC & WSSC Comments on the Crabbs Branch Site (AN-1) 404 Mitigation Concept Design
August 12, 2020	USACE	Discussion of new regulatory definition of Waters of the US and any implications on the Jurisdictional Determination
August 27, 2020	MDE	Discussion of impacts within the MDE Tier II boundary and the Tier II package requirements
September 3, 2020	NPS	Discussion of the Statement of Findings requirement as it pertains to MLS and path forward for coordination meetings.
September 4, 2020	USACE and MDE	Discussion with the regulatory agencies about how to apply the MSMF stream calculator and which stream assessments to use.
September 29, 2020	M-NCPPC Montgomery County	404 Mitigation Magruder Branch (CA-2/3) Site Preliminary Design
September 29, 2020	FHWA	Culvert and permitting
September 29, 2020	USACE and MDE	Provide project updates and receive updates from the regulatory agencies related to MLS permitting.
September 29, 2020	MDNR and USFWS	MLS Informal Section 7 Consultation – 2020 Bat Survey Results
October 5, 2020	NPS	Wetland Mitigation Meeting for Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and GWMP
October 14, 2020	NPS	Wetland Mitigation for NPS National Capital Parks- East
October 15, 2020	FHWA, USACE, and MDE	Permitting
October 16, 2020	MDE, USACE, MDNR, and USEPA	404 Mitigation Magruder Branch (CA-2/3) and Pebblestone Dr. Tributary Preliminary Designs
October 29, 2020	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
November 9, 2020	FHWA, USACE, and MDE	Permitting
November 12, 2020	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
November 18, 2020	M-NCPPC Montgomery County	Stormwater Field Meeting
November 19, 2020	USACE and MDE	Stream Assessment Field Meeting
November 19, 2020	MDE and USACE	404 Mitigation Magruder Branch (CA-2/3) Wetland Delineation Field Review
November 24, 2020	USACE and MDE	Permitting
December 1, 2020	M-NCPPC Montgomery County	Stormwater Field Meeting
December 2, 2020	M-NCPPC Prince George’s County	ROE Agreement Extension
December 8, 2020	USACE, MDE, FHWA, MDNR, USFWS, and NPS	Plummers Island Coordination
December 10, 2020	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
December 11, 2020	USEPA, MDE, USACE, and FHWA	Culvert Field Meeting
December 14, 2020	USEPA, FHWA, USACE, and MDE	Phased Permit Process
December 21, 2020	MDE and USACE	Culvert Field Meeting
January 7, 2021	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
January 14, 2021	MDE and USACE	Seneca Creek Tributary (CA-5) and Crabbs Branch (AN-1) Wetland Delineation Field Reviews
January 19, 2021	MDE, USACE, and USEPA	401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) Working Session
January 21, 2021	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting

DATE	AGENCIES	GENERAL TOPICS COVERED
January 22, 2021	MDE	404 Mitigation Henson Creek (RFP-5) and Mill Swamp Creek (RFP-6) Wetland Delineation Field Reviews
February 4, 2021	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
February 16, 2021	USACE and MDE	A presentation to the regulatory agencies of how the Maryland Stream Mitigation Framework stream calculator is being applied to the MLS.
February 18, 2021	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
February 22, 2021	MDE, USACE, and USEPA	401 WQC Working Session
March 1, 2021	NPS	Washington Biologists' Field Club Coordination Meeting
March 4, 2021	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
March 9, 2021	MDE and USACE	Cabin Branch (RFP-2) and Pebblestone Dr. Tributary (AN-3) Wetland Delineation Field Reviews
March 18, 2021	USACE and MDE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
March 19, 2021	Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO)	404 Mitigation Tributary to Seneca Creek (CA-5) Semi-Final Design
March 24, 2021	M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MDE, and USACE	404 Mitigation Tributary to Seneca Creek (CA-5) Semi-Final Design
April 1, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Mitigation Indian Creek and Tributaries at Konterra (RFP-1) Wetland Delineation Field Review
April 9, 2021	MDOT SHA Plan Review Division (PRD)	404 Mitigation PRD Comments on the Magruder Branch (CA-2/3) Site Development Submittal
April 16, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Mitigation Indian Creek and Tributaries at Konterra (RFP-1) Wetland Delineation Field Review
April 22, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
May 6, 2021	M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MDE, and USACE	404 Mitigation Magruder Branch (CA-2/3) Semi-Final Design
May 20, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
June 15, 2021	MDE and USACE	Discussion of impact presentation in JPA and NEPA Documents
June 25, 2021	MDE and USACE	Compensatory SWM Site Wetlands & Waterways Delineation Field Review
June 30, 2021	MDNR	Mussel Survey
June 30, 2021	M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MDE, and USACE	404 Mitigation Tributary to Seneca Creek (CA-5) Semi-Final Field Meeting
July 1, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
July 12, 2021	M-NCPPC Montgomery County and MDE	404 Mitigation M-NCPPC Comments on the Magruder Branch (CA-2/3) Semi-Final Design
July 15, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
July 23, 2021	MDNR	Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species and Boring Locations
August 4, 2021	MDE and USACE	LOD Review Meeting
August 19, 2021	USACE	Change in Jurisdiction for Navigable Waters Protection Rule
August 26, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
September 7, 2021	M-NCPPC Montgomery County	4(f) Mitigation Cabin John Creek Field Meeting
September 9, 2021	MDE and USACE	404 Permitting Update Meeting
September 24, 2021	USACE, MDE, USFWS, MDNR, USEPA, M-NCPPC	Compensatory SWM Field Review
October 13, 2021	USACE, MDE	LOD Review Meeting- review minor changes
October 14, 2021	M-NCPPC	M-NCPPC Coordination Meeting

DATE	AGENCIES	GENERAL TOPICS COVERED
November 3, 2021	USACE, MDE	Permitting Update Meeting
November 9, 2021	VDOT	I-495 NEXT Project Coordination
November 29, 2021	MHT, NPS, FHWA	Washington Biologists' Field Club Coordination Meeting
December 21, 2021	USACE, MDE	JPA Package Review Meeting
January 7, 2022	USACE, USEPA, FHWA MDE, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County, MDNR	Stormwater management discussion

8.3.2 Section 106 Consultation

Agency and interested parties' consultation is being conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that considers the effects of the proposed action on historic properties. FHWA and MDOT SHA notified the agencies and other consulting parties of an update to the undertaking's Area of Potential Effects (APE), new architectural eligibility determinations, and effects assessments on July 23, 2020. The agencies and other consulting parties received archaeological reports documenting archaeological and architectural survey and evaluation efforts for stream and wetland mitigation areas identified by the Study, as added to the APE in July 2020, as well as determination of eligibility forms for architectural resources associated with the proposed off-site wetlands and water quality mitigation sites on February 11, 2021.

The FHWA and MDOT SHA held a fourth consulting parties' meeting virtually on March 10, 2021. A draft Programmatic Agreement was distributed for review and comment to the consulting parties on March 10, 2021 with the comment period ending April 12, 2021. MDOT SHA has continued to coordinate with individuals consulting parties through informal meetings, email and other means as impacts to specific resources are evaluated. MDOT SHA has conducted additional field work at the Moses Hall Cemetery, and closely coordinated this effort with key consulting parties including the Friends of Moses Hall, the trustees of the property, and the First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove. A draft report documenting the fieldwork effort at Moses Hall Cemetery, with additional information on the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church was provided to consulting parties for comment on May 27, 2021.

On September 8, 2021, MDOT SHA provided additional consultation materials including: additional Ground Penetrating Radar results at the Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 Moses Hall and Cemetery, a revision to the APE to reflect the Phase 1 South limits including avoidance and minimization measures, archaeological and historic architectural assessments of the proposed stormwater mitigation locations, new determinations of eligibility, and revised effect determinations to reflect the reduced APE based on the Phase 1 South limits. Additionally, a comment from Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) was addressed to revise the effect determination on one archaeological site in Virginia. Concurrence was requested from MHT on the eligibility determinations and revised effect determinations, in accordance with each agency's jurisdictional authority.

The FHWA and MDOT SHA have also held separate meetings with consulting parties to discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation efforts on adversely affected historic properties within the APE (**Table 8-9**). Note that Section 106 public involvement is being fulfilled through the same processes used for general public involvement and NEPA compliance. For additional detail on agency correspondence received on

the project regarding cultural resources, refer to the *Final Cultural Resources Technical Report (FEIS, Appendix I)*.

Table 8-9: Section 106 Consultation Meetings Post-DEIS Publication

DATE	ORGANIZATION
September 16, 2020	Friends of Moses Hall
November 10, 2020	Friends of Moses Hall
February 10, 2021	Friends of Moses Hall
March 10, 2021	Consulting Parties
April 6, 2021	First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove
May 5, 2021	VDHR, VDOT, and NPS
June 2, 2021	First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove, Friends of Moses Hall, M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MCDOT, and FHWA
September 8, 2021	First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove, Friends of Moses Hall, and FHWA
October 18, 2021	ACHP, MHT, VDHR, NPS, FHWA
January 4, 2022	First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove, Friends of Moses Hall, M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MHT, FHWA, National Trust for Historic Preservation

8.3.3 Section 4(f) Agency Coordination

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 mandates that use of a publicly-owned park, recreation area, wildlife/waterfowl refuge, or historic site for a transportation project cannot be approved unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative that avoids such use and all possible planning to minimize harm to Section 4(f) properties has been included in the project. In reaching the determination that no feasible and prudent avoidance alternative exists and all possible planning to minimize harm has been included in the project, Section 4(f) regulations require the Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation be made available for coordination and comment to officials with jurisdiction (OWJs) over the Section 4(f) resources. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation was available for review and comment with the DEIS comment period July 10 through November 9, 2020. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is available on the project website: https://www.oplanesmd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DEIS_AppF_Draft-Section-4f-Eval_web.pdf.

Since July 2020, MDOT SHA has conducted conference calls, meetings, and field reviews with or sent letters to the following OWJs over parkland along the study corridors: NPS, M-NCPPC Montgomery County, M-NCPPC Prince George’s County, NCPC, City of Rockville, City of Gaithersburg, City of Greenbelt, City of New Carrollton, and Montgomery County Department of Education. FHWA and MDOT SHA have also held meetings and coordinated with the agencies with jurisdiction over historic sites, including NPS, the ACHP, MHT, and VDHR. Through this extensive coordination, MDOT SHA has provided detailed explanations of the proposed project design and its associated impacts on Section 4(f) properties. MDOT SHA has also worked closely with the OWJs to further reduce impacts and minimize harm to Section 4(f) properties. These minimization efforts are presented in **Chapter 6** of this FEIS. Additionally, MDOT SHA has developed final Section 4(f) mitigation opportunities in close coordination with officials with jurisdiction for feedback.

In addition to OWJs, the Section 4(f) Evaluation must be made available to the US Department of the Interior (USDOI) and as needed, to the USDA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (23 C.F.R. §774.5). In accordance with 23 CFR §774.5, USDOI has been provided an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Section 4(f) and Updated Section 4(f) which included a preliminary conclusion on the avoidance and least overall harm analysis. USDOI consultation will continue with review of the Final Section 4(f) Evaluation (**FEIS, Appendix G**) in coordination with the FEIS which will enable USDOI to provide comments on FHWA's conclusions regarding the existence of feasible and prudent avoidance alternatives, the inclusion of all possible planning to minimize harm to Section 4(f) properties (including mitigation), and the least overall harm alternative. The Preferred Alternative would not affect resources requiring coordination with USDA and HUD and, therefore, consultation with these agencies is not necessary.

For additional detail on agency correspondence received on the project regarding Section 4(f), refer to the **FEIS, Appendix S**.

8.4 Incorporation of Public and Agency Input into the Study

Following the publication of the DEIS in July 2020, MDOT SHA has considered over 5,000 comments submitted via email, phone, online and hard copy comment forms, and public testimony. MDOT SHA communicated with many agencies, stakeholders, and members of the public to address their questions and concerns. As a result of this continued involvement and engagement effort with agencies, stakeholders, and members of the public, comments have been incorporated into the project the following ways (not all-inclusive):

- Aligned the Preferred Alternative and environmental permitting process with the phased project delivery/construction approach focusing on addressing the severe congestion at the American Legion Bridge (ALB) as priority.
- Committed to constructing a shared use path on the east side of the ALB to support regional pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.
- Avoided and significantly reduced property, community, historic, natural resource, and parkland impacts.
- Avoided all residential and business displacements.
- Avoided impacts at the historic Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 Moses Hall and Cemetery.
- Identified appropriate on-site and off-site stormwater management to meet regulatory requirements and removed or relocated stormwater management facilities from sensitive resources including parks, where feasible, and NPS property.
- Monitored and analyzed traffic impacts associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic to understand any impacts on existing and future travel and to the Study.
- Committed to priority bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements to increase affordable multi-modal options for travel within the study corridors.
- Included toll-free travel under the Preferred Alternative for High-Occupancy Vehicles with three (3) or more occupants, transit buses, carpool/vanpool and motorcyclists to reduce the reliance on single occupancy vehicles and provide equitable travel options.

- Avoided and minimized environmental and property impacts by eliminating the concrete barrier and repurposing the pavement on I-270 between the Collector-Distributor system and the general purpose lanes to provide a new lane and largely stay within the existing roadway footprint on I-270.
- Modified direct access ramps to the managed lanes in consideration of local land use and the potential for community, property, and environmental impacts.
- Established a Transit Work Group to further explore opportunities for new or expanded transit service on managed lanes.
- Established an Economic Work Group to determine the economic impacts of the project to the National Capital Region.
- Established an EJ Work Group to support the EJ analysis and engagement efforts.
- Incorporated closed roadway sections with retaining walls where feasible to avoid and minimize environmental and property impacts.
- Included underground stormwater management vaults to avoid and minimize environmental and property impacts.
- Significantly revised the constructability plan for the ALB by removing construction vehicle access in three of the four quadrants to avoid and minimize impacts to NPS property.
- Eliminated all ramps crossing over the general purpose lanes of I-495 at the MD 190/River Road interchange by adjusting the location of the high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane direct access ramps between I-495 and MD 190. All HOT lanes direct access ramps within this interchange are now proposed to connect at a new intersection on the MD 190 bridge over I-495 without the use of ramps crossing over the general purpose lanes of I-495.

This effort was possible through the extensive agency and stakeholder coordination that occurred since publication of the DEIS in July 2020 including:

- Holding meetings with the established Economic, Transit and EJ Working Groups.
- Holding over 50 individual stakeholder meetings with municipalities, non-governmental organizations, elected officials and communities.
- Holding over 60 resource and regulatory agency meetings to discuss DEIS comments, avoidance, minimization, and mitigation opportunities.
- Holding over 40 field and office meetings with regulatory agencies to discuss natural resource impacts, stormwater management, culvert augmentation and permitting.