



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB 6/10/10 –Item #14
(Roundtable)

Intercounty Connector
Mandatory Referral No. 06809-SHA-1
Status Report #21

Prepared 6/1/2010 for the 6/10/2010 Roundtable Discussion

This memorandum provides an update on notable activities that have occurred since Status Report #20 on March 25, 2010 including:

1. Environmental Stewardship (ES) and Compensatory Mitigation (CM) Projects
 - A. Review Process and Schedule for Upcoming Mandatory Referrals
 - B. NW-170, 128 & ICC Mainline Field Visit
 - C. PB-114A – Peachwood Neighborhood Park
 - D. Olney Manor Dog Park Grand Opening
2. Design Submittal Process
3. Construction Update

1. Environmental Stewardship (ES) and Compensatory Mitigation (CM) Projects

The ICC project includes a commitment to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to the environment, as well as provide environmental improvements in the form of stewardship projects. Many of these projects involve stream work, forest planting and wetland creation and will occur on parkland. Design is underway for the majority of the compensatory mitigation and environmental stewardship projects.

A. Review Process and Schedule

The Parks Department, SHA and MdTA now have a master agreement to be used in place of the park permit process for the ICC ES-CM projects on parkland. This memorandum of understanding (MOU), described in Status Report #16 last year, streamlines the process of implementing ES/CM projects on parkland by consolidating interagency agreements unique to the ICC mitigation and stewardship projects in a common document. All of the ES-CM projects located in the Upper Paint Branch must be completed before the ICC opens to traffic per Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Quality Certification permit special condition. These projects will be reviewed as Mandatory Referrals.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is completing a number of stream restoration, wetland creation, and stormwater management projects throughout Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The compensatory mitigation projects are required to be completed to offset environmental impacts from the construction of the ICC. SHA has also committed to numerous environmental stewardship projects that go beyond the mitigation requirements, by restoring pre-

existing degraded environmental conditions that are in close proximity to the ICC. The entire compensatory mitigation and environmental stewardship package consists of approximately 70 projects that are located throughout the Paint Branch, Northwest Branch, Rock Creek, Great Seneca Creek, and Indian Creek watersheds. In addition, a number of projects are being undertaken to compensate for losses of park facilities.

SHA has agreed to follow Montgomery County’s review process by having mandatory referrals for all of the ES/CM projects. Some of the mandatory referrals may be reviewed administratively such as the Redland Middle School Shared Use Path (MO-A), as described in Status Update Report #20. The reforestation projects will be reviewed under procedures currently used for similar public and private projects. The design of the reforestation projects does not necessitate the need for a mandatory referral. M-NCPPC staff will continue to work closely with SHA on these projects.

The following tables show the tentative months for when specific environmental stewardship, compensatory mitigation, and community stewardship projects will be presented to the Montgomery County Planning Board as mandatory referrals (Tables 1 – 5).

Table. 1 June 2010 Mandatory Referrals (Two Planning Board Dates)

Site	ES/CM/CS	Type	Proposed Units	Status/Board Date
MO-E	CS	Lake Frank Trail	2500 linear feet	June 10, 2010
SC-2	CM	Wetland/Stream	22.0 acres/4971 linear feet	Final/June 17, 2010
RC-131/131A	CM	Fish Passage Restoration	2800 linear feet	Semi-Final/June 17, 2010
MO-A	CS	Redland Trail	2000 linear feet	Administrative

Table 2. July 2010 Mandatory Referrals (Three Planning Board Dates)

Site	ES/CM/CS	Type	Proposed Units	Status
PB-116 & 117	ES	Biotrenches	11.5 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-118	ES	Wetland	51.4 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-119	ES	Biotrenches	8.13 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-133	ES	Biotrenches	2.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-120 & 121	ES	Biotrenches	14.4 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-130	ES	LID Techniques	74.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-131 & 132	ES	Biotrenches/SWM Pond Creation	12.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-46A	CM	SWM Pond Retrofit	22.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-48	CM	Bioretention Retrofit	5.4 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-43	CM	SWM Pond Creation	34.1 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-113	ES	Biotrenches	36.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-114 & 115	ES	Biotrenches	26.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-114A	CM	SWM Pond Creation	43.7 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-33	CM	SWM Pond Retrofits	27.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
NB-1	ES	Stream	2800 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
NB-3	ES	Stream	4000 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
RC-2	ES	Stream	2400 linear feet	Semi-Final

Table 3. September 2010 Mandatory Referrals (Four Planning Board Dates)

Site	ES/CM/CS	Type	Proposed Units	Status
NW-35	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	31.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
NW-39	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	26.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
NW-47	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	28.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
NW-29	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	768.0 acres	Concept
PB-8	CM	Stream	1200 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
PB-108	ES	Stream	2400 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
PB-37	ES	Stream	2700 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
NB-16	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	192.0 acres	Concept
NB-7	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	274.0 acres	Concept
NB-11	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	56.0 acres	Concept
MO-C	CS	Wayfinding Signage	N/A	Administrative

Table 4. October 2010 Mandatory Referrals (Two Planning Board Dates)

Site	ES/CM/CS	Type	Proposed Units	Status
RC-73 & 74	ES	SWM Pond Retrofits	79.0 & 106.0 acres	Concept
PR-257	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	493.0 acres	Concept
RC-26	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	538.0 acres	Concept
PB-1	CM	Wetland	12.0 acres	Preliminary Investigation
PB-119	CM	Stream	1000 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
PB-109	ES	Stream	2500 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
PB-12A & B	CM & ES	Stream	6500 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation

Table 5. Mandatory Referrals Beyond October 2010

Site	ES/CM/CS	Type	Proposed Units	Status
SC-19	CM	Wetland	19 acres	Preliminary Investigation
NW-4	ES	Stream	3800 linear feet	Preliminary Investigation
NW-32	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	16 acres	Concept
NW-40	ES	SWM Pond Retrofit	55 acres	Concept
NW-69	CM	Wetland	3.0 acres	Final

State Highway Administration Plan Review Process:

1. Concept Phase
2. Preliminary Investigation Design (30%)
3. Semi-Final Design (60%)
4. Final Design (90%)
5. Plans, Specs and Estimates (100%)

B. NW-170, NW-128 & ICC Mainline Field Visit

On June 24th, Parks staff and the ICC team will be taking the Planning Board on a field visit to the compensatory mitigation sites NW-170, NW-128, and a portion of the Contract B mainline. The tour will begin at NW-170, which is a stream restoration project that extends from the Batchellors Forest tributary down to where Bonifant Road crosses Northwest Branch. The group will visit a section of the Batchellors Forest tributary where construction was recently completed. The tour will then proceed with a visit to the Contract B mainline from Layhill Road to Bonifant Road, where the construction of the large bridges over Northwest Branch and Bonifant Road are underway. The tour will finish up with a visit to the NW-128 wetland creation project that was completed in 2006. This project consisted of the removal of baseball fields in the Northwest Branch floodplain to create approximately 3 acres of wetlands.

C. PB-114A – Peachwood Neighborhood Park

PB-114A consists of a stormwater management facility that has been proposed in Peachwood Neighborhood Park. The location of the facility was targeted due to the site being one of the last remaining headwaters of the Good Hope Tributary that is currently not being treated for stormwater runoff. The pond has been sized to provide adequate stormwater treatment; this however may require the removal of some of the recreational facilities in the Park. Park staff and the ICC team have been coordinating the design of the project with the Peachwood Community. These efforts have included sending the community a letter with a description of the project, mailing and processing a park user survey, coordinating with the President of the Peachwood Civic Association, and meeting with the Peachwood Park Committee to discuss their recommendations on the project. A public meeting was held for the project on May 25th to provide the community an opportunity to review and comment on the three alternatives that have

been proposed for the project. Parks staff and the ICC team will meet in the near future to discuss the feedback that was received at the public meeting and come to a consensus on the best alternative.

D. Olney Manor Dog Park

This approximately 1.0-acre park located within the Olney Manor Recreational Park was completed in December 2009. The park is completely fenced and provides separate facilities for large and small dogs. Montgomery County Department of Parks and the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration have planned a grand opening celebration of the dog park on Saturday, June 19, 2010 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

2. Design Submittal Process

The ICC is being constructed as a design-build process, with construction ongoing as final designs are being completed. M-NCPPC has been receiving plan submittals from SHA as they are received from the Design-Builder, and has had the opportunity to comment on the designs and on any concerns or impacts to County environmental resources. At this time, the designs for Contracts A, B and C are each between 95 and 97% complete.

Background

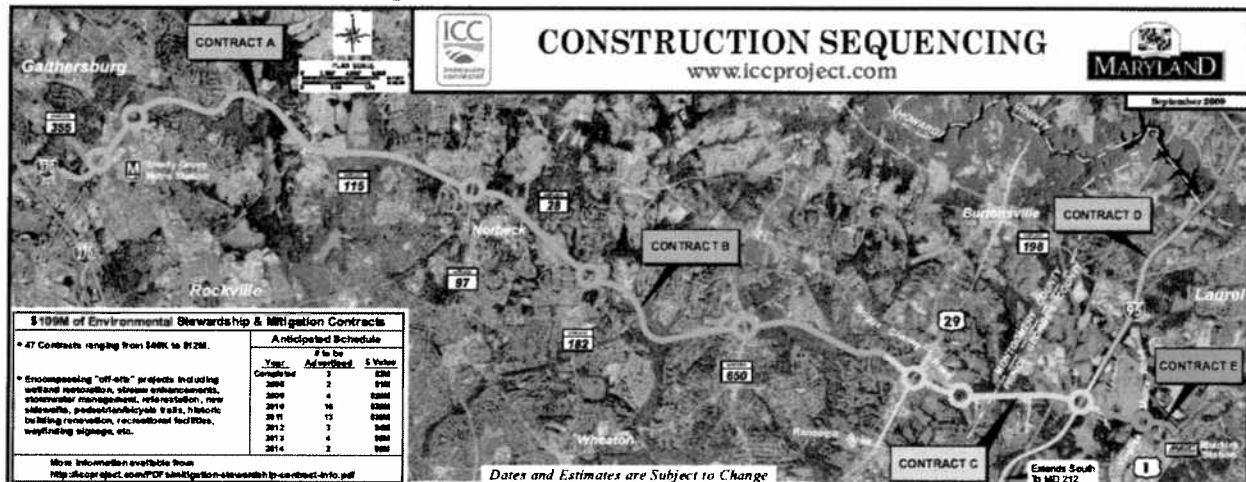
ICC Record of Decision

In May 2006, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Intercounty Connector (ICC) project. It approved the Preferred Alternative in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that was complete in January 2006.

As shown in Figure 1, the project is divided into five "contracts." The construction schedule for each "contract" is as follows:

- Contract A: Construction began in November 2007 and is expected to be complete in Late 2010. Construction is currently 73% complete.
- Contract B: Construction began in January 2009 and is expected to be complete in late 2011. Construction is currently 35% complete.
- Contract C: Construction began in April 2008 and is expected to be complete in late 2011. Construction is currently 60% complete.
- Contract D: Deferred
- Contract E: TBD

Figure 1. ICC Preferred Alignment



3. Construction Update

This update is from March 9, 2010 through May 27, 2010. Contracts A, B and C are all under construction. The Erosion and Sediment Control Ratings for Contracts A and B have a mid-A average, and Contract C has a low-A average over the past few months. Incentives were paid to Contracts A, B, and C for high environmental performance. There has been a great deal of emphasis on eliminating tracking of mud on public streets, allaying dust, and maintaining noise compliance during increased night work operations. Construction of sound walls continues corridor-wide and a lot of landscaping has occurred on Contracts A and C. There has also been multiple community meetings held.

<u>Approximate Percent Complete</u>	<u>Open to Traffic – Estimated Date</u>
Contract A – 73%	Late 2010
Contract B – 35%	Late 2011
Contract C – 60%	Late 2011

Some of the more noticeable construction is noted below:

Contract A

Overview: Major earthwork, stone base, and paving underway and generally advancing from west to east.

- The Metro Access Road (MAR) interchange is at final grade with most of the paving complete and many ramps now open. Landscaping and fencing is also progressing.
- Most of the area between the MAR and Redland Road is at final grade, stone has been placed, and asphalt installation is progressing.
- The Deckover structure in Winters Run (BR-16) has progressed and over half of the structure is complete.
- The girders are complete and the deck pours are nearly half complete for the Rock Creek arch bridge.

- Continued coordination between design builders and M-NCPPC regarding excavation of dry dirt and backfilling/creating berms with wet dirt in the Needwood Road area, including Parcel J, which is slated to be deeded to M-NCPPC (dredged material placement site). The grading plan has been approved by MDE.
- Advanced foundation elements and set steel girders for the first half of the Muncaster Mill Road Bridge over the ICC.
- Advanced installation of permanent wildlife fencing and landscaping between Muncaster Mill Road and the North Branch Rock Creek Bridge.
- North Branch Rock Creek bridge structure construction complete.
- Completed and switched traffic onto the new Emory Lane Bridge over the ICC.
- Finished Culvert EE (North Branch Rock Creek tributary east of Emory Lane).

Contract B

Overview: Clearing and grubbing nearly complete (including SPA), major earthwork underway, and major progress on structures.

- Continued reforestation west of Norbeck Road
- Working to approve berms west of Norbeck Road
- Traffic on Norbeck Road shifted to facilitate start of bridge work
- Advanced foundation, pier, and girder work on Longmead Crossing Bridge (no girders yet), Layhill Road Bridge, all three Northwest Branch Bridges, MD 650 Bridge, and Good Hope Bridge
- Final days of turtle searching near Notley Road. Over 900 turtles have been relocated
- Shifted Notley Road traffic to facilitate bridge construction
- Nearly completed access road through the SPA (MD 650 to Contract C). Temporary bridge at Paint Branch will be complete in mid-June

Contract C

Overview of Montgomery County portion: Advanced bridges and culverts and performed earth work

- Girders largely complete, deck pours started, and advanced grading at US 29
- Continued to finish grading and drainage between US 29 and Briggs Chaney Road, including the Auto Park Pond outfall area
- NW 160/170, a stream restoration project: completed first segment of in-stream work before stream restriction on April 14th; in-stream work will resume on July 11th; continuing to build mulched access roads
- REF 6, a reforestation project within the SHA right-of-way between MD Route 97 and I-270 has been planted