

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
MEDIA ADVISORY AND PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release:

March 23, 2006

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**COMMUNITY MEETING ON PROPOSED DAMASCUS BYPASS
SET FOR MARCH 28**

SILVER SPRING, MD – The staff of the Montgomery County Department of Planning invites Damascus-area residents, businesses and others to offer their ideas and comments at a public meeting on **Tuesday, March 28 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Damascus Library** about a proposal of the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee to reserve land for a potential two-lane bypass around the west side of Damascus. The library is located at 9701 Main Street in Damascus, Maryland.

This proposal also calls for the State Highway Administration to conduct a study during the next two years with Montgomery County and other surrounding counties to identify and evaluate transportation options to increase capacity in the MD 124/MD 27/MD 75 areas between I-70 and I-270.

During the Montgomery County Council's work on the Damascus Master Plan, members of the Council's PHED Committee requested the Planning Board to hold a public meeting on two possible routes for a future bypass. Since a possible road alignment was not discussed at many previous community meetings during the master planning process, this is an opportunity for community residents to get information about the issue and to provide comments to the Planning Board and County Council during this phase of the Damascus Master Plan process.

In addition, **the Planning Board** will hold a hearing on **Thursday, April 20**, time to be determined, at 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. This hearing will allow the community to formally comment on the bypass issue and process. This meeting would also provide those community residents who could not attend the March 28 meeting a second opportunity to provide comment to the Planning Board.

After receiving feedback from each of these meetings, the Planning Board will transmit a report to the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee on the comments received from the public. Then the Council will deliberate on the community comments received and decide on the issue of reserving land for a potential bypass route.

All community residents and organizations are encouraged to attend and participate in these important meetings.

More information is available on the Commission web site,
www.mcparkandplanning.org/damascus.

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