



**MCPB  
Item # 7  
2/3/05**

**To:** Montgomery County Planning Board  
**From:** ICC Internal Review Team (301- 495-4545)  
**Date:** January 27, 2005  
**Subject:** Intercounty Connector Study  
Planning Board Session # 6

---

This memorandum is prepared for the Planning Board's 6<sup>th</sup> session on the Intercounty Connector (ICC). Staff proposes to make a short presentation on our recommendations before taking two hours of public testimony. Thereafter we will ask the Planning Board for recommendations. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) staff and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) staff will be available for questions as you proceed through the decision-making process.

Staff requests the Planning Board to vote on five categories, in order: alternatives, options, transportation modifications, other design changes and environmental stewardship. Your recommendations will be sent to the County Council and County Executive for their consideration. We also intend to send a copy of your recommendations to the Maryland Department of Transportation. If MDOT selects a build alternative for the ICC, we will work with the study team on a comprehensive mitigation/compensation proposal and return to you for your approval of that proposal.

Immediately below you will find a summary of staff recommendations. We intend this summary to be your guide for decision-making. The staff report which follows the summary highlights these issues and speaks to the rationale and data for staff's recommendations. Detailed data that has previously been reviewed by the Planning Board has not been repeated.

## **SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends Planning Board support for the following elements of the ICC:**

### **A. Alternatives**

- 1- Build the ICC on the Corridor 1 (Master Plan) alignment.

### **B. Significant Options**

- 1 - Select Rock Creek Option C with Olde Mill Run Grade Separation (avoiding Needwood Lake through Rock Creek Park) with accommodation for a future M-83 connection to the ICC.
- 2 - Include the Layhill Road interchange.
- 3 - Select Northwest Branch Option A (the S-curve) through the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park.
- 4 - Defer any recommendation on whether the ICC eastern terminus should be located at I-95 or US 1 to Prince George's County.

### **C. Transportation modifications**

- 1 - Construct interchange ramps on Briggs Chaney Road east of US 29 but do not provide interchange ramps on Old Columbia Pike west of US 29.
- 2 - Construct portions of the shared-use path (hiker-biker trail), and fund remaining portions as shown in Exhibit 19, to provide a continuous facility.

### **D. Other Design Changes**

- 1 - Improve stream crossings with modified structures at Station 173 and Station 297.
- 2 - Reduce forest loss in parklands through application of linear stormwater management and retaining walls or reinforced side slopes.
- 3 - Reduce residential property displacements with application of retaining walls.
- 4 - Preserve right-of-way for the Georgia Avenue Busway.

**E. Environmental Stewardship**

- 1 - Support the Environmental Stewardship projects described in the DEIS for Corridor 1 but include the dredging of Lake Needwood and exclude the Fairland Elementary School sidewalk in the Upper Paint Branch SPA.

DKH:gw

icc at mcpb 020305 cover letter.doc