

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WATER AND SCIENCE
ADMINISTRATION

1800 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

Notice of Public Informational Hearing 201860368/18-NT-0086, I-95 Section 200 Improvements Project
Phase 1 – Modification Request

A virtual public hearing for only the proposed work listed below is being held to gather information and hear testimony to assist the Department in making a determination regarding an application for a nontidal wetlands permit. Statements for or against this application may be presented orally through the virtual platform during the hearing or in writing to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Nontidal Wetlands Division, Emily Dolbin, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230, by email at Emily.Dolbin@maryland.gov, or Telephone No. (667) 219-3279. The virtual public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on March 4, 2021. In order to view or participate in the hearing, a participant must register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6486746282230258955> and directions will be electronically forwarded to the email provided. If internet service is not available, the participant may call 1-877-309-2074 and then enter access code 728-844-619 to hear the public hearing. Phone only participants will not have the ability to provide testimony during the hearing, however, statements may be provided to Emily Dolbin by February 25, 2021 to be read during the hearing which may not be longer than three minutes in length. Information and questions can be provided orally by participants during the hearing through the virtual platform. Phone participants may provide questions about the project by February 25, 2021 to Emily Dolbin to be answered during the hearing. Associated materials can be accessed at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/MdTA_I-95_Sect-200_Improvements.aspx

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MDTA), 8019 Corporate Drive, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland, 21236, has applied to modify Phase I of the I-95 Express Toll Lanes Section 200 Improvements Project (Section 200 Phase I). The modification request includes design changes, such as, a revised fence line along I-95 from MD 152 to MD 24 (Harford County), increase in the limits of disturbance (LOD) at the Raphel Road Intersection (Baltimore County), full replacement of bridges over Big and Little Gunpowder Falls (Baltimore and Harford Counties), various design changes to erosion and sediment control and stormwater management (Baltimore and Harford Counties), transferring a portion of the work from the Section 100 project from Cowenton Road to New Forge Road that has not been constructed (originally permitted under 05-NT-0357), and two noncompliant noisewalls along I-95 northbound and southbound (Baltimore County). The modification results in an increase of permanent impacts to 60,052 square feet of forested nontidal wetland, 407 square feet of scrub-shrub nontidal wetland, 23,472 square feet of emergent nontidal wetland, 420 square feet of vernal pool, 188,343 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 19 linear feet of perennial streams, and 610 linear feet of intermittent streams, and temporary impacts to 275 linear feet of perennial stream, 596 linear feet of intermittent stream, and 7,998 square feet of 100-year nontidal floodplain. The modification results in a decrease of permanent impacts to 61,426 square feet of 100-year nontidal floodplain, and temporary impacts 3,770 square feet of forested nontidal wetland, 171 square feet of emergent nontidal wetland, and 2,070 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer. In total, the project will now permanently impact 81,405 square feet of forested nontidal wetland, 1,135 square feet of

scrub-shrub nontidal wetland, 29,868 square feet of nontidal emergent wetland, 420 square feet of vernal pool, 282,816 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 2,105 linear feet of perennial stream, 4,218 linear feet of intermittent stream, and 193,262 square feet of 100-year nontidal floodplain. The project would also temporarily impact 19,160 square feet of forested nontidal wetland, 10,363 square feet of emergent nontidal wetland, 42,618 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 721 linear feet of perennial stream, and 596 linear feet of intermittent stream, and 34,653 square feet of 100-year nontidal floodplain. The project is proposed within the Bird River (Use IV), Lower Gunpowder Falls (Use I), Little Gunpowder Falls (Use III) and Lower Winters Run (Use I-P) watersheds. The project is located on I-95 from MD 43 to MD 24 in Baltimore and Harford Counties, Maryland. The mitigation requirement is 196,208 square feet of wetland mitigation and 3,714 linear feet of stream mitigation. The proposed mitigation will be provided both on-site and off-site at the following locations: Whitmarsh Run Mitigation site southeast of US 40 between Ebenezer Road and Reames Road in Baltimore County, Eccleston Mitigation Site adjacent to Greenspring Valley Road and Park Heights Avenue in Baltimore County, and WUS 18A Onsite Mitigation Site located along I-95 southbound in Harford County. Only those issues subject to regulation by the MDE Nontidal Wetlands and Waterway Construction Divisions (impacts to nontidal wetlands, wetland buffer, waterways, and the 100-year floodplain) will be considered in rendering a decision to grant or deny the MDE Permit Modification. Written comments, and requests to be included on the interested persons list may be sent by March 18, 2021 to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Attn: Emily Dolbin, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230 or at Emily.Dolbin@maryland.gov or (667) 219-3279. Any further notices concerning actions on the application will be provided only by mail to those persons on the interested persons list. Please refer to Subsection 5-907 of the Annotated Code of Maryland or the Code of Maryland Regulations 26.23.02 for information regarding the application process.