



## **TRAFFIC RELIEF PLAN**

### **WHAT: Traffic Relief Plan for Maryland**

#### **Part I – ADD CAPACITY WITH NEW LANES ON I-495 IN MARYLAND BETWEEN AMERICAN LEGION BRIDGE AND WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE**

Transform the Capital Beltway by adding capacity with new lanes along I-495 between the American Legion Bridge and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Every day, more than 240,000 people get stuck in traffic on I-495 sitting in 7 hours of congestion.

#### **Part II – ADD CAPACITY WITH NEW LANES ON I-270 BETWEEN I-495 AND I-70**

Transform I-270 by adding capacity with new lanes along I-270 between I-495 and I-70.

Every day, more than 260,000 people get stuck in traffic on I-270 sitting in 7 hours of congestion.

For I-495 and I-270, P3 (public-private partnership) contracts with private developers will be pursued to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the project. These P3 projects are geared to deliver new express toll lanes to transform these busy interstates from parking lots during rush hour to get people to their destinations quicker.

Delivering additional capacity on I-495 and I-270 will benefit the local road network by taking all the overflow traffic out of their neighborhoods. These two projects will get people home quicker and deliver a quieter neighborhood when they get there -- free of people using their local roads for shortcuts.

#### **Part III – SEEK TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF MD 295 AND ADD CAPACITY WITH NEW LANES BETWEEN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND BALTIMORE**

Transform MD 295 – the Baltimore/Washington Parkway – by seeking to transfer ownership of MD 295 and adding capacity with new lanes between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore.

Every day, more than 120,000 people get stuck in traffic on MD 295 sitting in 7 hours of congestion.

For MD 295, the Maryland Department of Transportation will seek the transfer of MD 295 from the U.S. Department of the Interior with the intent to have the Maryland Transportation Authority build, operate and maintain new express toll lanes and maintain existing lanes.





Adding new lanes on MD 295 -- a road notoriously clogged every day with people trying to travel between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore -- will deliver great relief to the 120,000 people who depend just to get to work and home every day.

Marylanders that live along the MD 295 corridor also will enjoy quieter neighborhoods once people can stay on MD 295 to get where they are going.

### **BENEFITS OF ADDING LANES TO I-495, I-270 AND MD 295**

Maryland has the second highest commuting time in the nation. The Baltimore-Washington region is one of the most congested regions in the country. I-270, I-495 and MD 295 are among the most traveled corridors in the State.

These corridors experience significant congestion and reliability challenges. Many segments on these corridors are featured in the top 30 most congested segments in the nation and most unreliable segments year after year. Capacity and operational improvements will have a very positive impact to safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods, thereby adding to the economic prosperity of the State.

**WHY:** Congestion has limited economic growth in Maryland and diminished the quality of life for Maryland citizens. For example, I-495 has been under study for two decades with no major improvements.

Maryland has the second longest commuting times in the nation, and the National Capital Region is the most congested region in the nation based on annual delay and congestion cost per auto-commuter. The statewide cost of congestion based on auto delay, truck delay, and wasted fuel and emissions was estimated at \$2.05 billion in 2015 and getting worse. This \$2.05 billion cost is an increase of 22% from the \$1.68 billion estimated cost of congestion in 2013. More than 98% of the weekday congestion cost was incurred in the Baltimore/Washington region.

**WHEN:** **TODAY MDOT IS:**

- **Issuing Request for Information to P3 Community;**
- **Approve the P3 Steering Committee's recommendations for the I-270/I-495 P3 projects; &**
- **Approaching the U.S. Department of Interior and Maryland Congressional Delegation about the transfer of MD 295 to the Maryland Transportation Authority.**

**COST:** Express Toll Lanes on I-495, I-270, and MD 295 – \$9.078 billion  
P3 Project for Express Toll Lanes on I-495 and I-270 - \$7.6 billion  
This \$7.6 billion P3 is the largest P3 highway project in North America.

