

System Extent

The System Extent chapter of this report attempts to develop an inventory of Maryland's existing highway system. This chapter does not report on the analytical aspect of the system; rather, it attempts to answer the questions what, where, and how many.

SHA is responsible for highways throughout the State of Maryland and provides the primary network for the state transportation system. These highways provide links to transportation modes including aviation, port and rail networks. This integrated state highway system also joins the county roadways for access to local communities and neighborhoods throughout Maryland.

SHA maintains the majority of Interstate, U.S., and numbered state routes. Baltimore City maintains all roads within city limits, including Interstates. The Maryland Transportation Authority manages Maryland's seven toll facilities, including I-895 (Baltimore Harbor Tunnel), and I-95 from the tunnels north to the Delaware state line. Each Maryland county maintains local roads that are not under SHA's jurisdiction.

SHA maintained routes are signed with the following types of symbols:



Interstate Route



U.S. Route



Maryland State Route

Maryland highways provide vital connections to surrounding states and are heavily used by through traffic, including trucks. The state highway system has evolved over time, and there are some roads in the State system that serve only local needs. The State and local jurisdictions are working toward the goal of having roadways that serve regional needs maintained and operated by the local jurisdiction in which they are located.

This chapter covers a broad overview of Maryland's highways by looking at "quality of life" measures as well as simple highway statistics. These "quality of life" measurements include the construction of noise barriers, as well as the costs associated with their construction, and the construction of sidewalks along state highways. Another "quality of life" example is the planning, reporting, and mapping of SHA roundabouts, which are increasingly becoming a popular traffic calming and safety tool.

The System Extent measurements in this chapter are reported in an easy to read, visual format. They are depicted using charts, graphs, and maps as well as accompanying tables to bolster their effectiveness. This chapter will become the foundation and template upon which the following chapters are based.