



Request for Public Comment

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act- *de minimis* Finding

STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

Bridge and Structure Rehabilitation

US 1 over Big Gunpowder Falls and Gunpowder Falls Trail

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is proposing the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 0300300 carrying US 1 over Big Gunpowder Falls and Structure No. 03513X0 carrying US 1 over the Big Gunpowder Falls Trail (FMIS No. BA048A21) in Baltimore County, Maryland (Aerial Map attached). This project will impact Gunpowder Falls State Park, a publicly owned public park protected under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (Section 4(f)).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROJECT

Why is this work necessary and what improvements are proposed?

The rehabilitation is needed due to widespread rusting and section loss of the steel that compromise public safety. The proposed work would span a duration of six months. The proposed work includes providing a nine-inch thick reinforced cast-in-place concrete liner around the inside circumference of each of the 25-foot-diameter river arches over Big Gunpowder Falls and placing a 14-foot-diameter structural plate pipe within the existing 15-foot-diameter pipe that conveys Gunpowder Falls Trail under US 1. The void between the old and the new pipe would be filled with grout. The existing concrete pathway within the tunnel will need to be removed and reconstructed.

Why are comments being requested?

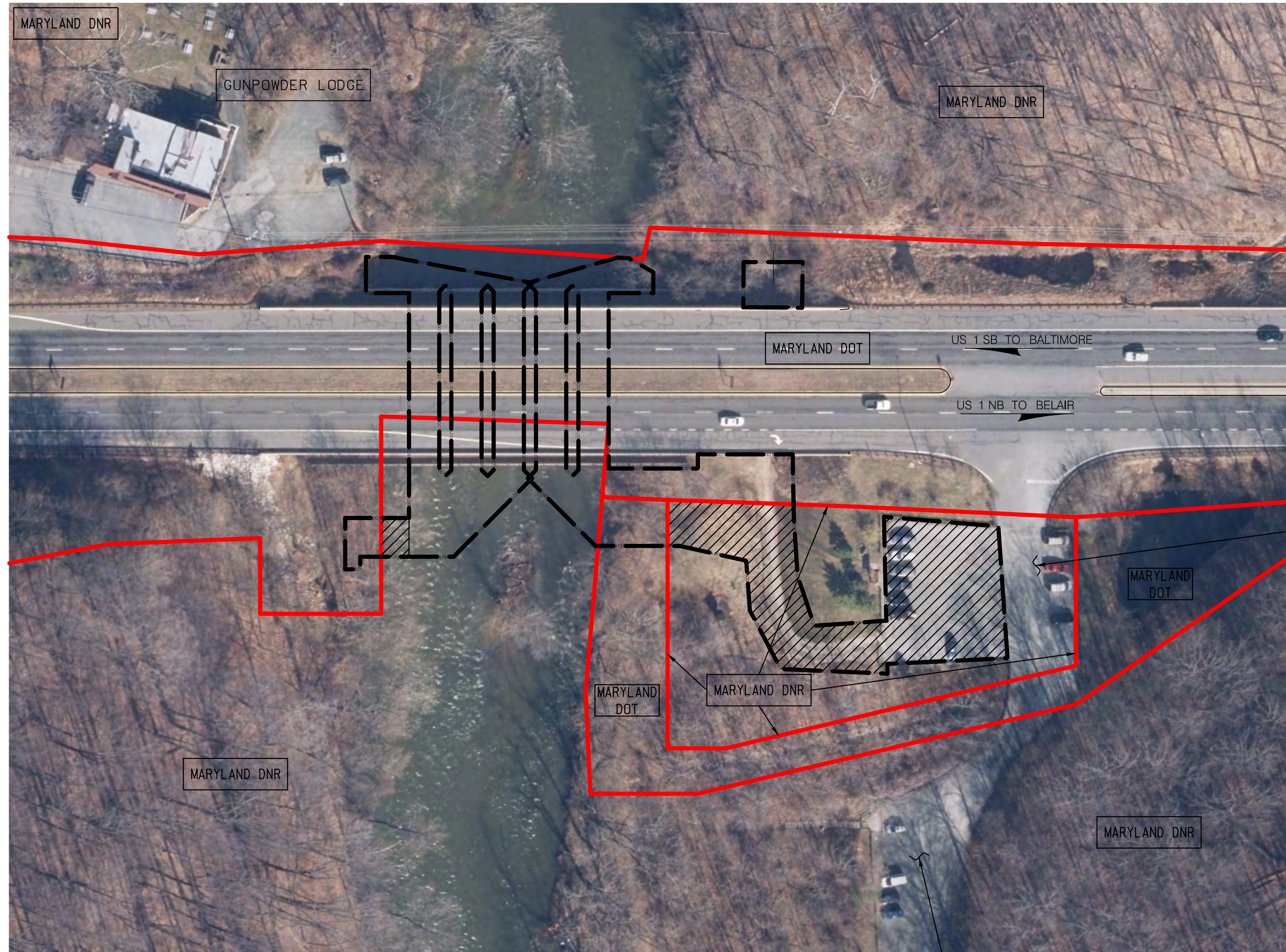
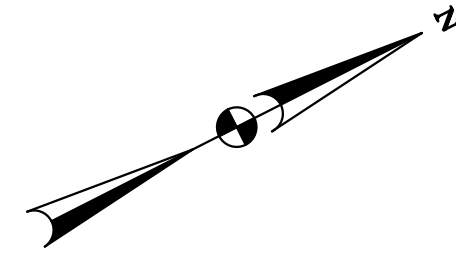
A provision of Section 4(f) (23 CFR 774.5(b)) allows the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on the protected resource. With respect to publicly owned parks and recreation areas, a finding of *de minimis* impact may occur if a transportation project does not "adversely affect the activities, features and attributes" of the Section 4(f) resource. When this is the case, the finding of FHWA requires written concurrence from the officials with jurisdiction over the resource. In addition, public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required.

What are the impacts to protected Section 4(f) resources?

The existing bridge, pedestrian tunnel, and entrances are within MDOT SHA right-of-way. Gunpowder Falls State Park is located on both sides of US 1. MDOT SHA proposes temporary access by way of a right-of-entry agreement of 0.35 acre from the Gunpowder Falls State Park. This would include closing the parking lot located immediately east of US 1 on the north side of Big Gunpowder Falls for construction staging through the six-month construction duration. Walkways that run parallel with US 1 on both the south and northbound sides of the bridge structure and the pedestrian/equestrian tunnel conveying Gunpowder Falls Trail will need to be closed to trail users and park staff 24 hours-per-day for approximately three months during the rehabilitation of the tunnel structure. Although the temporary easement required from the park is considered a "use" as defined under Section 4(f), there will be no permanent negative impact on activities, features, and attributes that qualify the recreation area for protection under Section 4(f). SHA, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request that FHWA make a *de minimis* (or minor) impact finding, in accordance with Section 4(f). Mr. Tony Redman, Director of DNR's Project Review Division was informed of SHA's intent to seek a *de minimis* impact finding on December 15, 2017. With this notice, the public is afforded the opportunity to provide comments on this finding.

How do I comment?

Please contact Mr. Joe Navarra, Project Manager at (410) 545-8315 or JNavarra@sha.state.md.us, or Ms. Alexis Morris, Environmental Manager at (410) 545-8916 or AMorris@sha.state.md.us; or visit us at www.roads.maryland.gov.



PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 50'-0"

- LEGEND:**
- LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
 - ROW LINE
 - TEMPORARY PARK ACCESS
= 0.35 ACRES

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REVISIONS	STATE OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF STRUCTURES REHABILITATION OF BRIDGE NO. 0300300 ON US 1 OVER BIG GUNPOWDER FALLS DNR COORDINATION
	SCALE <u>AS SHOWN</u> DATE <u>JUNE 2017</u> CONTRACT NO. <u>BA0485180</u>
	DESIGNED BY <u>B.L.C.</u> COUNTY <u>BALTIMORE</u> DRAWN BY <u>J.P.B.</u> CHECKED BY _____ F.A.P. NO. _____
	SHEET NO. _____ OF _____

BY: jbatton

STRUCTURE
INVENTORY NO.

SURVEY
BOOK NO.

PLOTTED: Friday, July 21, 2017 AT 12:24 PM
FILE: G:\SMD\081190_040_US_1over_Gunpowder_CADD\Structures\pBR-DNR_Coordination_US1 over Gunpowder.dgn