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*County Executive*

LAUREN T. BUCKLER, *Director*  
*Department of Public Works and Transportation*

## Public Notice

January 14, 2025

In compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303), hereinafter referred to as “Section 4(f),” and its implementing regulations codified at 23 CFR Part 774, Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation (BA CO DPW&T) is notifying the public through this notice that it will request the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) make a de minimis (or minor) impact finding in accordance with Section 4(f) regarding the temporary and permanent effects of the proposed replacement of Bridge No. B-0072 on Dogwood Road over Dogwood Run (Ben’s Run), and to provide the opportunity for public review and comment on this proposed determination.

Section 6009(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA- LU) allows the FHWA to determine that certain transportation uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on protected resources. 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, FHWA requires written concurrence from the official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource. Public notice and opportunity for public review and comment on the finding is required.

This project aims to provide safe passage of Dogwood Road over Dogwood Run that adequately accommodates both vehicular and truck traffic and maintains mobility through the project area. Replacement of this bridge is necessary to address safety concerns and improve hydrology when compared to the existing bridge. The existing bridge on Dogwood Road over Dogwood Run is a two-lane, single-span reinforced concrete arch bridge built in 1929. The 2023 routine (annual) Baltimore County bridge inspection report indicated the structure to be “in overall poor condition due to the deterioration of the concrete soffit, arches, and abutments,” with the deck, superstructure, and substructure all rated in poor condition. This structure classifies as both structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. The existing barriers do not meet current safety standards. The structure has a load posting restriction for legal loads. The existing opening of the bridge does not align with the stream alignment, which has caused severe bank erosion as well as creating significant backwater for storms less than the 100-year event, scour of the left stream bank, and backwater sedimentary deposits in the channel approximately 225 feet upstream of the bridge.

The proposed bridge will have a 77’-5½” span (cl bearing to cl bearing) and an out-to-out width of 35 feet, providing a clear roadway width of 31 feet consisting of two 11-foot lanes, a 3-foot shoulder for westbound traffic, and a 6-foot shoulder for eastbound traffic. There will be 2-foot-wide reinforced concrete MASH-compliant parapets on either side of the bridge. The design proposes widening Dogwood Road from DNR’s Alberton Road Trail Parking lot east to the intersection of Dogwood Road and Hollifield Road. Full-depth pavement reconstruction adjacent to the bridge and asphalt mill and overlay for the remainder of the project’s limits will be performed. The proposed design also includes stream restoration of Dogwood Run just upstream of the proposed bridge to stabilize eroded banks. Proposed landscaping includes stream/floodplain plantings within Patapsco Valley State Park and Baltimore County properties. At the request of DNR, the Alberton Road Trail Parking lot will be paved with asphalt within the existing footprint of the gravel parking lot. Construction of the proposed bridge will require the temporary closure of Dogwood Road at the bridge and the Alberton Road Trail Parking Lot for the duration of construction. Access to the park at the Alberton Road trailhead will only be open to foot traffic during the project. The intersection of Hollifield Road at Dogwood Road will remain open for traffic to make left turns from Dogwood onto Hollifield Road and right turns from Hollifield Road onto Dogwood Road. The detour will be approximately eight and a half (8.5) miles in length and is anticipated to last nine (9) months. The detour will utilize Old Court Road and Ridge Road. Coordination with Baltimore County fire and rescue, police, and the public school system will be conducted to ensure no adverse effect on response times or school activities.

To limit impacts to the Patapsco Valley State Park landscape and park users, BA CO DPW&T has taken the following measures: 1) Minimized limit of disturbance, including reducing project scope and limits to the extent possible on DNR parcels 2) No construction staging, stockpiling of materials or heavy equipment allowed outside of designated areas 3) Abiding to stream restriction period with no in-stream work between March 1 and June 15 4) Mitigating tree removal impacts by planting trees within project limit of disturbance within Patapsco Valley State Park.

The proposed bridge replacement will require permanent and temporary easements from the Patapsco Valley State Park, owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Although the easements required from the park are considered a “use” as defined by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966), there will be no negative impact on the activities, features, and attributes important to Patapsco Valley State Park that qualify the park for protection under Section 4(f). BA CO DPW&T, through this notice, is notifying the public that it will request the FHWA make a de minimis (or minor) impact finding in accordance with Section 4(f). The public is requested to provide comments on this finding.

Written comments regarding the proposed Section 4(f) de minimis impact findings may be submitted to the BA CO DPW&T Project Manager Hiwotie Wondem, during the 15-day comment period through February 6, 2025 by email at [dogwoodbridge@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:dogwoodbridge@baltimorecountymd.gov) or by regular mail to:

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