



# Connecting with

## Community Stewardship

Preserving and enhancing cultural resources and the quality of life for Maryland's citizens is integral to the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) Intercounty Connector (ICC) Project. SHA is committed to leaving a legacy of an enriched human environment through comprehensive planning, design and construction of highways that are compatible with neighboring communities.

### THINKING BEYOND THE PAVEMENT: ICC COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

SHA intends to set a new standard for Community Stewardship by going beyond compensating for the ICC's unavoidable impacts. The ICC will invest approximately \$370 million more than 15 percent of the project's estimated cost – not just to mitigate environmental impact, but also to protect and enhance the natural and human environments.

Providing support for cultural and heritage resources through renovation, relocation and other improvement projects is part of the ICC's plan to extend its already strong commitment to communities. Benefitting are archeological, historical and recreational sites, museums, schools and other civic entities.

Building architecturally attractive bridges and sound barriers that integrate with the surroundings is an essential element of the ICC's unique design. Building longer bridges than what is customary over parks and streams provides increased protection for the diverse array of ecological functions in these sensitive areas, greater clearance for wildlife and vegetation makes it easier to maintain park trails under the bridges. Lowering the ICC into the ground near existing communities is another feature used in some cases to reduce noise and visual impacts.

SHA incorporated projects to enhance the region's quality of life by providing pedestrian and bicycle trails, sidewalks, signage and even a dog park. These types of projects demonstrate SHA's commitment to being a "good neighbor."

Extensive, ongoing involvement with local citizens and public agencies resulted in a wide slate of worthy projects, including:

**RENOVATING HISTORIC WOODLAWN BARN** – The Woodlawn Barn, a unique three-story stone arch and timber-frame barn built in 1832, was once a hiding place for freedom-seeking African Americans before emancipation. When the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) completes the barn renovation, with substantial financial support from SHA, it will become an interactive visitor center telling the story of historic Woodlawn Manor and its role in the Underground Railroad. The renovated barn will serve as the gateway to historic Sandy Spring and the trailhead for the Underground Railroad Experience Trail. Completion: 2012



**PROVIDING "WAY-FINDING" AND IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE** Motorists, history buffs, and others using the ICC and driving in the vicinity will benefit by an innovative new directional "way-finding" signage system that will guide individuals to historic sites, heritage areas, and scenic / rustic roads. Completion: 2011

**DEVELOPING REDLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS** – Students attending Redland Middle School will have a safer and easier walk to school with the construction of approximately 2,000 linear feet of sidewalk on the south side of MD 115 from Applewood Lane to Olde Mill Run. The new sidewalk will connect to existing walkways and bike trails. Completion: 2009.

**BUILDING OLD GUNPOWDER ROAD PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE TRAIL** – Details for this project are in review and have not been finalized.



## CREATING AN OLNEY MANOR RECREATIONAL PARK DOG EXERCISE AREA

Dog owners will benefit from a one-acre dog park, divided into small and large dog areas, providing ample area to exercise and socialize their pets. Amenities for the park will include perimeter fencing, pedestrian and equipment gates, benches, information kiosks, dog waste bag dispensers, picnic tables and trash receptacles. Completion: 2008

## TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS TO ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK (LAKE FRANK) –

Lake Frank's roads were once open to vehicular traffic. These roads and parking lots around the lake will be removed leaving a pedestrian trail. Plants will be added as a buffer to the lake. Completion: 2010

**PARKLAND MITIGATION** – More than 775 acres of new parkland will replace the 88 acres that will be used for the ICC.

## ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**LLEWELLYN SPORTS COMPLEX** – SHA fast-tracked the replacement of the Wheaton Boys and Girls Club soccer field in late 2006. The original ballpark site frequently flooded. SHA created wetlands at the site and rebuilt the ballpark at the sports complex. Other new facilities will be built through a joint SHA/M-NCPPC project at this sports complex including one baseball field, two more soccer fields and one football field. This project also includes reforestation, playgrounds, pedestrian trails, a restroom facility, a picnic shelter and picnic areas, an open play area, a maintenance facility and parking.

**ARCHEOLOGY: EXPLORING AND UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF THE CORRIDOR** – Working at a prehistoric site located where the ICC will cross Georgia Avenue, a team of SHA archeologists unearthed conclusive evidence of prehistoric human activity dating as far back as the Late Archaic period (3,400-5,000 years ago), which includes a Native American quartz quarry and the tool processing area. The findings of the archeological investigation will be shared with the Maryland public through the ICC Project website ([www.iccproject.com](http://www.iccproject.com)), exhibits at public events and presentations at Montgomery County schools.

**LAYHILL ROAD BIKE TRAIL** – Improving Layhill bike trail by connecting Longmeade Park with Layhill Park is planned during the construction of the ICC.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM** – Working with the National Capital Trolley Museum, SHA is assisting with the museum's relocation. The museum's long-standing plan to move to a new facility crystallized with the advancement of the ICC, which unavoidably crosses through its current location. Additionally, the ICC team is coordinating with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to address issues associated with moving the museum. Completion: 2009

**RELOCATING THE BOX TURTLES** – In the fall of 2007, SHA, with the help of specially-trained turtle tracking dogs and environmental teams, located 92 box turtles near the westernmost portion of the ICC. SHA's contractor, Intercounty Constructors, placed harmless transponders on the turtles to allow crews to find them later in their hibernation spots and move them to safe new homes before ground excavation started on Contract A.

For a complete list of Community Projects, or to learn more about the ICC, visit the project website at [www.iccproject.com](http://www.iccproject.com), or call toll free 1-866-462-0020.



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