

A newsletter designed to inform, assist, and engage the public during design and construction of the Intercounty Connector

## FIRST SEGMENT OPEN

### ICC's First Segment Opened To Traffic on February 23, 2011

After years of discussion and debate, the first segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) is open to traffic. Construction on the first segment, also known as Contract A, began back in November 2007. On February 21, 2011, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the first segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC). Speakers included, Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown, US Transportation Secretary LaHood, Maryland Transportation Secretary Swaim-Staley, Montgomery County Executive Leggett, Prince George's County Executive Baker, Senator Forehand, and Delegate Barve. Despite the rainy weather many people attended to watch and participate in the ceremony.

On the morning of February 23, 2011, the first segment of the ICC officially opened to traffic. The ICC is Maryland's first all electronic toll road and is also a variably priced toll road. Higher tolls are charged



Ribbon Cutting. Left to right: Lt. Governor Brown, Governor O'Malley, US Transportation Secretary LaHood, Maryland Transportation Secretary Swaim-Staley, Montgomery County Executive Leggett, Prince George's County Executive Baker, Senator Forehand, and Delegate Barve

during rush hour travel in order to manage congestion and deliver reliable travel times. The peak travel times are Monday – Friday, 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 7 p.m. During the first two weeks, drivers were able to use the ICC for free to get a feel for the new road. There were about 5,500 vehicles during the morning peak hours when there were no tolls. Since tolling has started, there have been an average of 2,100 vehicles using the ICC during the morning peak hours. It has cut down on many people's commute time drastically.

While an E-ZPass is the easiest way to pay for the toll, it is not the only way. Anyone without an E-ZPass that uses the ICC will have a photo taken of their license plate, and the toll plus a \$3 service charge will be sent to the registered vehicle owner. Since it is all electronic no cash is accepted on the ICC.

For more information on an E-ZPass, please visit [www.ezpassmd.com](http://www.ezpassmd.com).

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### LET'S TALK!

#### The ICC Wants to Hear From You:

To learn more about the ICC, visit [www.iccproject.com](http://www.iccproject.com). The Spanish version of the website is now available.

If you have questions and comments about the ICC, please contact:

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The view looking east towards Georgia Ave on Day One

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The first segment is seven miles long, from I-370 at Shady Grove to Georgia Avenue (MD 97) in Rockville/Olney. Until the next segment of the ICC opens, vehicles travelling eastbound will exit at Norbeck Road (MD 28). This is a temporary connection and this exit will no longer exist when the next two segments open. The remaining work on the first segment will be completed by mid 2011.

## CONTRACT D/E MODIFIED

### Contact D/E Modified To Be Built

In March 2011, SHA Administrator, Neil Pedersen, sent a letter to prospective design build teams to participate in the procurement of Contact D/E modified. It is the fourth design-build contract on the ICC. The announcement of the procurement for Contract D/E Modified contains a few changes from the original plan.

Initially, the ICC included five design build contracts. The fourth segment, Contract D was originally going to be the construction of collector and distributor (CD) roads along both northbound and southbound I-95 from the ICC/I-95 Interchange to just north of MD 198. The fifth segment, Contract E would have been an extension of the ICC from the eastern end of

Contract C to US 1.

Contract D/E Modified is these two segments merged together with a few changes. The new contract reduces the length of the CD road along I-95, and includes the extension off of the end of Contract C to an at-grade intersection at Virginia Manor Road. Depending on the future funding available within the approved ICC financial plan, the new contract provides the option to construct an ICC/Virginia Manor Road interchange and extend the ICC to US 1.

“The SHA will partner with the successful design-build team to construct this contract with the utmost environmental sensitivity, a strong commitment to quality and safety, and achievement of our Minority Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MBE/DBE) goals, while adhering to our budget and schedule,” said SHA Administrator Neil Pedersen.

## PROGRESS ON THE ICC

### Contracts B and C Construction Moving Forward

As of January 2011, construction workers have logged nearly 6.1 million labor hours on the ICC and approximately 70 percent of the budget has been spent. The first segment of the ICC is now open to the public and the next two contracts are on schedule to open later this year or early 2012, depending on the weather.

Contract B is seven miles long extending from MD 97 to US 29. Construction on Contract B started



Installing soundwalls

January 2009 and is approximately 71 percent complete. Some of the construction Contract B is currently working on includes, bridge work at the following locations: Norbeck Road (MD 28), Notley Road, New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) and bridges over Northwest Branch, Paint Branch, and Good Hope streams. Contract B is also working on wetland restoration and grading activities.

Upcoming construction on Contract B includes, beginning to complete asphalt surfacing from Norbeck Road (MD 28) to Bonifant Road, finalizing the bridge work at Longmeade Crossing Drive, installation of gantries, and traffic shifts at Notley Road and Norbeck Road (MD 28) upon bridge completion. Landscaping and restoration activities will also take place, in addition to the ongoing sound wall installation.

Contract B is also working on wildlife crossings. They have designed culvert passages under the road for animals to use. Permanent barriers will be added to prevent animals from crossing traffic.

Contract C is 3.8 miles between US 29 and I-95, 1.3 miles of US 29 road improvements and 1.9 miles of auxiliary lanes. Construction of Contract C began April 2008 and is more than 84 percent



Bridge over Gum Springs-Paint Branch

complete. Some of the construction Contract C is currently working on includes structural work at Bridge-41 (Interchange at US 29), paving on I-95, setting steel at Bridge-60 (I-95 east of Fairland Road), finishing installation of toll gantries, and grading the mainline area.

Future construction on Contract C includes surface paving at gantries, finishing sign foundations,

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, COMPENSATORY MITIGATION, COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS (ES/CM/CS)

The ES/CM/CS program is to help counterbalance the environmental impacts caused by the ICC as well as previous development in the area before the ICC. There are many upcoming ES/CM/CS projects on the ICC for 2011.

- A bicycle/pedestrian trail project near Redland Middle School will begin construction in 2011.
- NW-69, a wetland mitigation project located off of Batchellors Forest Road, is currently on hold due to wet conditions but will resume construction as the weather improves.
- Stream restoration projects, NW 160 and NW 170, both continue to have construction.
- Six reforestation projects are completed and three more began at the end of March 2011.
- The fish passage project on Rock Creek (RC-131) intends to restore passage for migratory fish species to historic spawning grounds by eliminating barriers to migration.
- Eight stormwater management projects have been completed to date. Two more began at the end of March 2011.

For more information on the ES/CM/CS program, please visit the ICC website at: <http://www.iccproject.com/environmental-programs.php>.

completing light structures, and a deck pour on BR-41.

One of the community stewardship projects Contract C will work on is a bike path. One of the segments of the bike path will be along US 29. Construction for this section of the bike path will begin later this year.

For more information on continuing ICC construction, please visit [www.iccproject.com](http://www.iccproject.com).



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#### Office of the Intercounty Connector

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