



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
Office of the Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board

October 7, 2002

Parker Williams, Administrator
Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
P.O. Box 717
Baltimore, MD 21203-0717

Dear Mr. ^{Parker} Williams:

The Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed the MD 97 Brookeville project planning study at the regularly scheduled meeting of September 19, 2002. The Board endorsed the staff recommendations (copy enclosed) as described below:

1. The Montgomery County Planning Board recommends that the State Highway Administration select Alternate 7 Modified, a western bypass of the Town of Brookeville, as the preferred alternate for the MD 97 Brookeville project planning study.
2. During the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, SHA should prepare interagency memoranda of understanding defining the process to achieve the Smart Growth condition which specifies future widening or access to be prohibited via third-party easement.
3. Subsequent project planning and design activities should incorporate the following, prior to mandatory referral:
 - a. Accommodation of safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings for the existing Oakley Cabin Trail and a potential future natural surface trail as described in the Countywide Park Trails Plan.
 - b. Preservation of the archeological resources in the core areas of the Newlin/Downs Mill site

- c. Selection of a bridge, rather than a culvert, to cross Meadow Branch
- d. Mitigation strategies for parkland and wetlands impacts
- e. Identification of stormwater management pond locations
- f. Identification of construction impacts, including required staging areas
- g. Determination of ownership and maintenance responsibility for the portions of existing MD 97 to be bypassed

We look forward to continued coordination with your staff on this important project as it moves forward into detailed design.

Sincerely,



Derick P. Berlage
Chairman

DPB:DKH:cmd

MCPB MD 97 Brookeville Recommendations to SHA.doc