




City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council 

FROM: David J. Deutsch, City Manager

SUBJECT: US 301/MD 197 Interchange
Project Status Briefing

DATE: March 15, 2007

Council last reviewed the interchange options for US 301/MD 197 approximately two (2) years ago, in March 2005. At that time, Mr. Chris Weber of the Maryland State Highway Administration, presented several alternates and discussed Council's concerns about the original project being too expansive and costly. Since 2005, SHA staff has been examining various aspects of the interchange design and have worked to refine the "Alternate 2 with Roundabouts" option, adding bridges at Governor Bridge Road and Excalibur Road. The goal is to have a public meeting to review the refined alternate, along with the original alternates.

The briefing Monday night is informational only. Ms. Felicia Alexander, current project manager, will update Council on the refined "Alternate 2 with Roundabouts" and discuss the next steps in the project planning process. A public informational workshop is scheduled for April 11, 2007 at City Hall. SHA will conduct another Location/Design Public Hearing with the new option being added to Alternates 2 and 5. Conclusion of the project planning stage would occur when the Administrator selects an Alternate to forward to the Federal Highway Administration.

To provide some history on this project, on November 18, 2002 and January 6, 2003 the City Council held public hearings on the proposed interchange design. Several Alternates were reviewed, including Alternate 2, Alternate 2 Modified, Alternate 5A and Alternate 5B. Both City staff and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce recommended that Council support Alternate 5. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council decided to send a position statement to the State Highway Administration (SHA) expressing the City's concerns with the intensity of the four (4) proposed design solutions. The City was previously advised that, if a specific alternate is endorsed by the City Council for this project, the State will continue the project planning study to its completion.