

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: July 11, 2013

1. Bowie Business Shuttle Bus Service

The City is seeking proposals from licensed and qualified firms to provide shuttle bus service between various locations in and adjacent to the City of Bowie. The bid package may be obtained by electronic mail from John Henry King at jhking@cityofbowie.org or upon request from the Department of Planning and Economic Development. The response deadline is 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2013.

The RFP has been advertised in the *Bowie Blade-News* and the *Washington Post* and is available on the City's website and eMaryland Marketplace.

2. Ramp Closure at US 50 and US 301

At the July 1st City Council Meeting, Council asked for additional information concerning ramp closures at US 50 and US 301. Attached is a press release issued by the State Highway Administration regarding the next phase of work for the US 50/US 301 interchange ramps.

This weekend and next weekend, SHA will close the ramp from westbound US 50 to southbound US 301. The ramp closure will begin at 9 p.m. Friday. The ramp will reopen no later than 5 a.m. on Monday. This ramp closure schedule applies to both weekends and all work is weather permitting. A signed detour is in place that will guide motorists around the work zone.

Additionally, once this phase of work is complete, SHA will close the ramp from northbound US 301 to westbound US 50 for two weekends. This work will be weather permitting. SHA will issue an additional press release the week that this work is scheduled to begin. Tentatively, this work could begin as early as Friday, July 26.

3. Weed Warrior Program Kicks Off

The City's Green Team will kick off its Weed Warrior program with its first work day from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 20th. The goal is to remove English ivy from trees in Whitemarsh Park. English ivy can strangle a tree at its base, cutting off its ability to take in nutrients. In Whitemarsh Park, it has stretched into the forest canopy, weighing down

branches causing stress to trees and making them more vulnerable to damage or collapse during storms. To help save the trees along the driveway to the Bowie Playhouse, volunteers will work monthly, on either a Saturday or Sunday, to remove English ivy from them. The volunteers will eventually work their way into other forest edges of Whitemarsh Park.

For the July workday, five members of the Green Team and the Environmental Advisory Committee and about eight volunteers have already registered, including Councilmember Gardner. We invite all of you to join your colleague and the other volunteers on July 20 and at our other workdays on Saturday, August 10, at 8:30 a.m. and on Sunday, September 15, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

4. Loader #475 Replacement

The Public Works Department has identified a replacement for loader #475. The FY 2014 amount allocated is \$115,000. The cost of the replacement is \$107,141.76, with a trade-in allowance of \$25,000 for a total purchase price of \$82,141.76. This unit is available on a bid from Montgomery County (Contract #9367000254-AS). As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to purchase this equipment.

Attachment

For Immediate Release

*****TRAFFIC ALERT*****

**WESTBOUND US 50 RAMP TO SOUTHBOUND US 301
TO CLOSE FOR TWO WEEKENDS IN BOWIE**

*Temporary Weekend Full Ramp Closure With Detour Continues Friday Night;
Motorists Should Add Extra Commute Time, Expects Delays Next Two Weekends*

(**July 10, 2013**) – Beginning Friday, July 12 at 9 p.m., the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) will fully close the ramp from westbound US 50 (John Hansen Highway) to southbound US 301 (Robert Crain Highway). The ramp will reopen no later than 5 a.m. on Monday, July 15 to assure that all travel lanes on the ramp are safe for travel and that the concrete overlay has the proper time to set.

SHA will also close the ramp next weekend beginning at 9 p.m. on Friday, July 19 and will reopen the ramp no later than 5 a.m. on Monday, July 22. All work is weather permitting.

The closure is part of the \$1.8 million ramp resurfacing project at the US 50/US 301 interchange in Prince George's County.

Drivers traveling on westbound US 50 should travel past the US 50/US301 interchange and follow the signed detour route around the work zone to access southbound US 301. Drivers should add additional time to their commute for the next two weekends.

As part of the project, SHA will apply a bonded concrete overlay called "whitetopping" to the ramp. Whitetopping is a sustainable resurfacing solution that improves braking on wet surfaces and creates a smoother ride for drivers. Whitetopping typically lasts longer than traditional resurfacing methods, reduces rutting caused by larger vehicles that travel on the road surface and produces savings through less frequent road repairs, fewer lane closures and fewer construction zones because of its durability.

More than 100,000 vehicles use the US 50/US 301 interchange daily. SHA's contractor for the project is Concrete General, Inc. of Gaithersburg.

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