



STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

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Lt. Governor
Gregory Slater
Secretary
Tim Smith, P.E.
Administrator

February 23, 2021

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
FEB 26 '21 PM 1:45

County Commissioners Of Queen Anne's County
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville MD 21617

Dear County Commissioners Of Queen Anne's County:

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is currently conducting field survey activities relative to studies on the following project:

FMIS ID No.: AZ074A3J

Project: MD 835 at MD-835A Service Road from MD-8

Activities in the project vicinity may include: field research, survey activities, environmental analysis, engineering study, wetland delineation and archaeological study. Representatives under our employ, either MDOT SHA personnel or consultant personnel under MDOT SHA direction, may be required to enter temporarily onto your property. The privilege of entering onto your property is provided for by the Annotated Code of Maryland, § 12-111 of the Real Property Article. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of our need to access your property to gather data and to request your cooperation. If we do not hear from you within 30 days of the date of this letter, we will assume we have your cooperation and consent. All MDOT SHA employees carry identification cards and are required to display them upon request. Consultant employees are also required to display identification upon request.

Our personnel have been instructed to take every possible precaution to assure that your property is not damaged in any way while conducting these studies. If damage does occur, the MDOT SHA will make proper restitution. To assist us further, it would be helpful if you would point out to our field personnel any conditions on your property (freshly planted crops or other features) that might not be readily apparent.

Since the purpose of the studies is to gather data, our field personnel gathering information are not usually aware of the project details. Consequently, they may not be able to answer some of your questions concerning the proposed improvement. They are not being evasive, but they may not be able to answer your questions because the final design often cannot be determined until after all the data has been collected and analyzed.

Personnel of the office listed below and or those from other MDOT SHA offices may contact you again about reentry upon your property in order to obtain additional engineering data. It is MDOT SHA policy to re-contact property owners for the purpose of re-entry if one year has elapsed since the previous contact.

A written response to this letter is not necessary. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mr. Jordan Smith, Project Manager at 410-545-2812 or via email at jsmith38@mdot.maryland.gov. Mr. Smith will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Barry C. Smith, Chief
Plats and Surveys Division

Attachment A:

List of Affected Properties

Attachment B:

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Attachment A: List of Affected Properties

Tax Account ID No: 1804080394
Property Address: 200 Airport Road
Stevensville MD 21666

Tax Account ID No: 1804103203
Property Address: 146 Romancoke Road
Stevensville MD 21666

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
FOR
ACCESS TO PROPERTY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND ENGINEERING
ACTIVITIES**

1. Is there any law or regulation that requires or grants permission to enter onto my property?

Answer: Yes, the ability to enter onto private property is provided for by the Annotated Code of Maryland, § 12-111 of the Real Property Article.

2. Do I need to be home when someone needs to enter onto my property?

Answer: No, however, if you have any special concerns or items you want to coordinate with us (i.e. dogs/pets, known underground utilities, etc.), please contact the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Project Representative at the telephone number indicated in the contact letter.

3. Will anyone need to enter my home or other structure on my property?

Answer: No, not normally except under extraordinary circumstances. If activities require additional information, someone may contact you to make specific arrangements to obtain the information.

4. How will I be able to identify the persons completing field assessments?

Answer: Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration personnel are required to carry official identification cards and are required to display them upon request. Often, consultants are used by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration to carry out the activities. Consultant employees are also required to display identification upon request. If there is ever any concern about the identification of a representative, please call the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Project Representative at the telephone number indicated in the contact letter.

5. Does the letter mean that someone will be entering my property?

Answer: No, letters were sent to everyone in the immediate area of the proposed alternates. It is possible that no one will need to enter onto your property.

6. Why is this environmental analysis or engineering activity being conducted?

Answer: This project may be a project planning study or a design project in the final engineering phase. Project Planning Studies require collection of field data and assessments to properly identify the environmental features on properties within the project study area and there is no selected alternate at this time. A design project in the final engineering phase may require the collection of additional field information that will be used to complete project design details.

7. What will be done on my property during the environmental assessment?

Answer: The evaluation of historical structures and potential hazardous materials map simply require photographs and visual inspection. Some studies, such as wetland identification and soil borings may require digging a test pit and removal of soil sampled for analysis. Wetland identification is usually accomplished in two separate visits. The first visit may be conducted by Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration or their representatives, who may place vinyl ribbon or wire flags to mark the boundaries of the wetland/waterway. Subsequent visits may include a small group (5-10 people) representing Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and various environmental regulatory agencies. Each visit may require the use of a handheld auger to excavate a hole approximately 4 inches in diameter and up to 5 feet deep. All areas disturbed will be returned as close to the previous state as possible.

8. What will be done to my property during a subsurface investigation?

Answer: The primary method used to perform these geological investigations is to create a boring, or a hole drilled into the ground. As the boring is drilled, the subsurface soil or rock layers and the groundwater are evaluated. To reach the depths required for the investigation and to penetrate hard soil or rock, borings are usually created using motorized equipment with very low ground pressure to minimize disturbance to the ground surface. For very sensitive areas, ground protective mats can be used to prevent even minor indentations in the ground surface. Archaeological investigations may require the hand excavation or holes eighteen inches (18") in diameter up to three feet (3') deep. These holes will be refilled, and the area restored as close to the previous state as possible. All activities related to these operations will be coordinated with the property owner prior to any actual disturbance.

9. During what time frame will the field assessment be done?

Answer: Representatives may appear for up to one year for the date indicated in the letter. Prior to beginning the assessment, the representatives will knock on the door of any occupied structure on a property. Air and noise analyses take approximately 24 hours and require only the temporary placement of a noise meter on the property. The evaluation of potential historic structures may be accomplished in one day.

10. Who owns the archaeological or historical artifacts that may be found?

Answer: The property owner owns all artifacts that may be found and may donate such artifacts to the State Curatorial Facility by signing a deed of gift.

11. I don't live anywhere near the proposed alignments. Why am I getting this letter?

Answer: Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration is required to identify properties that may be appropriate for environmental enhancement projects, to be used as compensation for impacts to environmental resources resulting from the project. State and federal agencies who regulate these resources allow Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration to compensate for these impacts in the watershed in which the impact occurs. Depending on the watershed, the search for suitable sites may be quite a distance from the actual project area. If you are a distance from the proposed alignments, then a preliminary analysis has indicated that a portion of your property may be suitable for use as an enhancement project.

12. How soon will construction of the project begin?

Answer: The environmental analysis and engineering activities occur during the planning or design phase of a proposed project. Funding may or may not be allocated for the right-of-way or construction phases of the project. The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration project representative identified in the contact letter would be able to provide more specific information concerning the status of construction funding for this project.