

I-95 ETL Northbound Extension MD 152 Park & Ride Virtual Public Update

Hello, the Maryland Transportation Authority, or MDTA, welcomes you to the virtual public update about options for the MD 152 Park and Ride as part of the Interstate-95 Express Toll Lanes, or ETL, Northbound Extension Program. The MDTA is committed to the protection of our customers and team members, and we are practicing social distancing by holding a virtual public update. While we are committed to following safety best practices during this pandemic, MDTA wants to inform you, the community and the traveling public, about the status of the I-95 ETL Program and specifically the MD 152 Park and Ride.

The MDTA is an independent agency responsible for financing, constructing, managing, operating, maintaining, protecting and improving the State's toll facilities, including I-95 from the southern Baltimore City line to the Delaware State line. The MDTA is self-sufficient and receives no gas tax, motor vehicle fees, or other revenue in the Transportation Trust Fund. All funds for the I-95 ETL Northbound Extension, come from toll dollars only.

In June 2018, Governor Larry Hogan announced the expanded \$1.1 billion I-95 ETL Program, which will provide two new northbound ETL for more than 10 miles from north of MD 43 in Baltimore County to north of MD 24 in Harford County. Part of Governor Hogan's "Traffic Relief Plan," the Program will:

- Provide traffic congestion relief;
- Improve safety along the corridor;
- Provide better service for our customers;
- Enhance the quality of life for adjacent communities; and
- Replace or rehabilitate multiple bridges that are more than 50 years old.

Construction is ongoing and will be completed through more than two dozen individual construction contracts. This approach allows us to minimize disruption for drivers and provide a safe condition for both motorists and workers. To date, several construction contracts have been completed, several are underway, and more construction contracts are scheduled to begin this year.

Now we would like to update you on the park and ride lots that are part of the corridor. Currently, there are large park and ride lots at MD 43 and at MD 152, and smaller park and ride lots along MD 152, and at MD 24, MD 543, and MD 22. As presented during the planning study and public meetings in February 2018 and August 2019, the I-95 improvements will impact the existing MD 152 Park and Ride lot, and it can no longer stay in its current location. As part of the MD 152 interchange reconstruction with I-95, Old Mountain Road, which currently provides access to the existing MD 152 Park and Ride, will no longer connect through the interchange ramps; instead, the Old Mountain Road overpass bridge will be removed, and cul-de-sacs will be constructed on both the east and west sides of I-95.

The existing MD 152 Park and Ride lot has 309 spaces and is heavily used today. In the summer of 2021, the lot will be impacted by construction and will no longer be accessible. To meet the needs of current and future park and ride users, the MDTA is proposing two new park and ride lots, one serving MD 24 and MD 924 and another lot at a new location to serve MD 152.

The new park and ride lot at MD 24 and MD 924 will be starting construction this month and will be completed in the summer of 2021. This new lot will include approximately 275 spaces and will feature transit and bicycle facilities.

Regarding the new MD 152 Park and Ride, the MDTA is requesting your input on several options. The MDTA has looked at multiple options using a variety of criteria. First, we looked at where current users are coming from, and where they are going. Additional site evaluations considered safety, traffic requirements, real estate needs, environmental impacts, utility concerns such as the 108-inch waterline, transit compatibility and cost.

Based on this evaluation, the MDTA has narrowed the options to three:

- The No-Build Option,
- A new lot at Franklinville Road and MD 152, and
- And a new lot at Old Mountain Road east of I-95.

Both new park and ride lot options will include transit and bicycle facilities.

The No-Build option is just how it sounds. There would be no park and ride lot along MD 152 near I-95. Existing and future users would switch parking locations to utilize the new MD 24/924 Park and Ride or one of the existing park and ride lots along I-95 and MD 152. However, some existing users from the MD 152 corridor may choose not to use a park and ride and drive by themselves.

The second option is a new park and ride lot at Franklinville Road and MD 152. Details of this option include:

- Access from Franklinville Road with minor roadway widening across from the Royal Farms store;
- Approximately 275 parking spaces;
- Minor environmental impacts, which have been approved by the federal and state environmental agencies;
- With modest improvements at the intersection of Franklinville Road and MD 152, traffic analysis has demonstrated that this option will meet current and future traffic needs;
- Engineering is complete; and
- The cost of this option is estimated to be \$8 million.

Recently, MDTA received public input that expressed concerns with this option and was requested to reconsider other options east of I-95. Specific concerns were expressed relating to traffic on Franklinville Road and at its intersection with MD 152. MDTA updated the traffic report for MD 152 and Franklinville Road. A new traffic signal at MD 152 and Franklinville Road was evaluated, but the evaluation determined the site does not meet the requirements for a traffic signal. Additionally, traffic models have demonstrated no areas of concern along Franklinville Road from this potential new park and ride location.

MDTA did re-evaluate the previous options east of I-95 and also looked to see if there were any new options. Based upon this analysis, MDTA has developed another alternative along Old Mountain Road east of I-95. Details of this option include:

- Primary access from a roundabout located near Old Mountain Road;
- Additional access from the east side of Old Mountain Road;
- Approximately 175 parking spaces;
- Preliminary environmental investigation determined only minor impacts similar to the Franklinville site. The minor impacts will need to be confirmed with the environmental agencies;
- Traffic analysis determined that this option will meet current and future traffic needs;
- Real estate acquisitions are required, and engineering would need to be completed; and
- The cost of this option is estimated within the range of \$11 to \$13 million.

Having presented the background and details of each of the three MD 152 Park and Ride lot options:

- The No-Build Option,
- A new lot at Franklinville Road and MD 152, and
- And a new lot at Old Mountain Road east of I-95.

... We now need your feedback!

A short comment form is available at mdta.maryland.gov to help inform us of your preferences. Click on the Projects and Studies tab and then click on the I-95 ETL Northbound Extension. The survey will remain active until June 25, 2020. In addition, you can submit questions prior to and during the virtual public update scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Information on all the improvements associated with the I-95 ETL Northbound Extension can also be found on the website.

We appreciate your valuable input and virtual engagement.
Thank you!