

Appendix C:

Farmland Conversion Coordination



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January 15, 2009

RE: Project No. FR192B11
I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study
Frederick and Montgomery Counties, Maryland

Mr. Mark Siebert
District Conservationist
Frederick County Service Center
Natural Resource Conservation Service
92 Thomas Jefferson Drive, Suite 240
Frederick, MD 21702-4403

Dear Mr. Siebert,

As part of the process required by the Natural Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) are currently preparing a Draft Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment for the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study in Frederick and Montgomery Counties, Maryland. The project extends from the Shady Grove Metro in Montgomery County to US 15/Biggs Ford Road in Frederick County (**Attachment A**). The purpose of the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study is to evaluate options to address congestion, improve mobility and improve safety conditions along the Corridor.

The 2009 Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment (currently in draft form) serves as a supplement to the 2002 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by introducing and evaluating two new highway alternatives (Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B). These alternatives evaluate the impacts of express toll lanes (ETLs) as a managed lane concept to support the purpose and need for the project. The options for transit, light rail or bus on the Corridor Cities Transitway, remain the same as presented in the 2002 DEIS. On April 24, 2002, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (FCIR) Form AD-1006 was forwarded to you by Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade and Douglas for the alternatives evaluated in the DEIS: 3A/B, 4A/B, and 5A/B/C.

As required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 (7 USC 4201 as implemented by the FPPA of 1981, Final Rule of July 5, 1994 (7 CFR 658)), the FCIR Form for Corridor Type Projects (NRCS-CPA-106) is being forwarded to you for the ETL alternatives, Alternative 6A/B and 7A/B, evaluated in the current document.

Mr. Mark Siebert
I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study
NRCS-CPA-106
January 15, 2009
Page 2



Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP

Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B provide general purpose lanes, auxiliary lanes, ETLs, additional interchanges, improvements to existing interchanges, and one new park and ride lot along the I-270/US 15 Corridor. The two alternatives are designed on an identical physical footprint throughout their length. Alternative 6A/B would provide two ETLs in each direction from I-370 to MD 121, and one ETL in each direction from MD 121 to north of MD 80. Alternative 7A/B would provide two ETLs in each direction from I-370 to north of MD 80. The transit component of Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B would provide a fixed guideway service on the proposed CCT alignment from the Shady Grove Metrorail Station to the COMSAT area in Montgomery County. Service would be provided by light rail or by bus on the guideway. Twelve new stations are proposed to be located at residential, mixed-use, and employment centers along the route, and an operations and maintenance facility may be included. A multi-use hiker-biker trail is included adjacent to the transitway alignment.

Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form

The Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form for Corridor Type Projects (NRCS-CPA-106), with Parts I and III completed for Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B, is enclosed along with mapping information (**Attachment B, Sheets 1-13**) showing the edge of pavement and proposed limit of disturbance for the alternatives' alignment with Prime Farmland Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance superimposed on the aerial mapping. Existing property lines are also shown.

We look forward to receiving your response with the appropriate parts completed by your office for the proposed build alternatives. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Anne Elrays, SHA Environmental Manager, at 410-545-8562 or via email at aerays@sha.state.md.us, or me at 410-462-9341. We appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Helen German, A.I.C.P.
Environmental Planner, Transportation Planning
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP

Enclosures

cc: Anne Elrays, SHA
Russ Anderson, SHA
Rick Kiegel, MTA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106
(Rev. 1-91)

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 1/15/09	4. Sheet 1 of 1		
1. Name of Project I-270 Multi-Modal Corridor Study		5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration			
2. Type of Project Transportation Uses/Highway and Tranist		6. County and State Frederick County, Maryland			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form		
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size			
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %		
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Corridor For Segment			
		Alt 6A/6B	Alt 7A/7B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		339	339		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services		0	0		
C. Total Acres In Corridor		339	339	0	0
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5			
8. On-Farm Investments		20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Reason For Selection:					
Signature of Person Completing this Part: _____ DATE _____					
NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor					

Clear Form



**Rummel,
Klepper
& Kahl, LLP**

*William K. Heilmann
Emeritus*

*David W. Wallace
Robert J. Halbert
Stephen G. Zentz
J. Michael Potter
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January 15, 2009

RE: Project No. FR192B11
I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study
Frederick and Montgomery Counties, Maryland

Mr. J.G. Warfield
District Conservationist
Montgomery County Service Center
Natural Resource Conservation Service
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855-1421

Dear Mr. Warfield,

As part of the process required by the Natural Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) are currently preparing a Draft Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment for the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study in Frederick and Montgomery Counties, Maryland. The project extends from the Shady Grove Metro in Montgomery County to US 15/Biggs Ford Road in Frederick County (**Attachment A**). The purpose of the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study is to evaluate options to address congestion, improve mobility and improve safety conditions along the Corridor.

The 2009 Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment (currently in draft form) serves as a supplement to the 2002 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by introducing and evaluating two new highway alternatives (Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B). These alternatives evaluate the impacts of express toll lanes (ETLs) as a managed lane concept to support the purpose and need for the project. The options for transit, light rail or bus on the Corridor Cities Transitway, remain the same as presented in the 2002 DEIS. On April 24, 2002, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (FCIR) Form AD-1006 was forwarded to you by Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade and Douglas for the alternatives evaluated in the DEIS: 3A/B, 4A/B, and 5A/B/C.

As required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 (7 USC 4201 as implemented by the FPPA of 1981, Final Rule of July 5, 1994 (7 CFR 658)), the FCIR Form for Corridor Type Projects (NRCS-CPA-106) is being forwarded to you for the ETL alternatives, Alternative 6A/B and 7A/B, evaluated in the current document.

Mr. J.G. Warfield
I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study
NRCS-CPA-106
January 15, 2009
Page 2



Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP


Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B provide general purpose lanes, auxiliary lanes, ETLs, additional interchanges, improvements to existing interchanges, and one new park and ride lot along the I-270/US 15 Corridor. The two alternatives are designed on an identical physical footprint throughout their length. Alternative 6A/B would provide two ETLs in each direction from I-370 to MD 121, and one ETL in each direction from MD 121 to north of MD 80. Alternative 7A/B would provide two ETLs in each direction from I-370 to north of MD 80. The transit component of Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B would provide a fixed guideway service on the proposed CCT alignment from the Shady Grove Metrorail Station to the COMSAT area in Montgomery County. Service would be provided by light rail or by bus on the guideway. Twelve new stations are proposed to be located at residential, mixed-use, and employment centers along the route, and an operations and maintenance facility may be included. A multi-use hiker-biker trail is included adjacent to the transitway alignment.

Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form

The Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form for Corridor Type Projects (NRCS-CPA-106), with Parts I and III completed for Alternatives 6A/B and 7A/B, is enclosed along with mapping information (**Attachment B, Sheets 1-13**) showing the edge of pavement and proposed limit of disturbance for the alternatives' alignment with Prime Farmland Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance superimposed on the aerial mapping. Existing property lines are also shown.

We look forward to receiving your response with the appropriate parts completed by your office for the proposed build alternatives. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Anne Elrays, SHA Environmental Manager, at 410-545-8562 or via email at aerays@sha.state.md.us, or me at 410-462-9341. We appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Helen German, A.I.C.P.
Environmental Planner, Transportation Planning
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP

Enclosures

cc: Anne Elrays, SHA
Russ Anderson, SHA
Rick Kiegel, MTA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106
(Rev. 1-91)

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 1/15/09		4. Sheet 1 of 1	
1. Name of Project I-270 Multi-Modal Corridor Study		5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration			
2. Type of Project Transportation Uses/Highway and Tranist		6. County and State Montgomery County, Maryland			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS		2. Person Completing Form	
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)		6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used		9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Corridor For Segment			
		Alt 6A/6B		CAlt 7A/7B	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		609		609	
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services		8		8	
C. Total Acres In Corridor		617		617	
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5			
8. On-Farm Investments		20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160		0	
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160		0	
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260		0	
1. Corridor Selected:		2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:		3. Date Of Selection:	
				4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Reason For Selection:					
Signature of Person Completing this Part: DATE					
NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor					

Clear Form



18410
Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855
Phone 301-590-2855

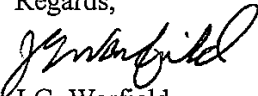
March 31, 2009

Helen German
Environmental Planner, Transportation Planning
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP
81 Mosher Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21217-4250

Dear Ms. German,

Enclosed per your request is the completed Form AD-1006. This form provides the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) proposed project for I-270/US 15 Multi-modal Corridor Study for Montgomery County. If additional assistance is needed, I can be reached on 301-590-2855.

Regards,


J.G. Warfield
District Conservationist

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106
(Rev. 1-91)

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	1/15/09	4. Sheet 1 of 1
1. Name of Project	I-270 Multi-Modal Corridor Study	5. Federal Agency Involved	Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration	
2. Type of Project	Transportation Uses/Highway and Tranist	6. County and State	Montgomery County, Maryland	

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
		1/22/09	J G WARFIELD
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size
			N/A 121
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA	
CORN, SOYBEANS, WHEAT, RAY	Acres: 123,232 % 38	Acres: 82,346 % 25	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	
MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND EVALUATION ANALYSIS	NONE	3/31/09	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Alt 6A/6B	CAIT 7A/7B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	609	609		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	8	8		
C. Total Acres In Corridor	617	617	0	0

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	390.3	390.3		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	218.4	218.4		
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.5	0.5		
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	27	27		
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)	89	89		

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15				
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10				
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20				
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20				
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10				
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25				
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5				
8. On-Farm Investments	20				
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25				
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10				
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100				
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	0	0	0	0

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:	DATE
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NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

