

FDR BLVD EXTENSION PLANNING STUDY

(2025-060)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION (DPWT)
ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

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For:



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Public Engagement Plan

1. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Public Engagement Plan (PEP) is designed to help the BAI team build broad public support for the FDR Blvd Extension Planning Study. This PEP outlines the goals, engagement techniques and tools, key messages to the public and stakeholders to be engaged throughout the nine-month project, and identifies key engagement milestones. The PEP will guide the strategic direction, approach, and desired outcomes for seeking public and stakeholder input and feedback throughout the planning study process. Engaging the public will be a proactive process that provides a wide variety of opportunities for public involvement and creates a meaningful, transparent process that ensures effective communication about how public contributions influence planning decisions.

Information on the progress of the FDR Blvd Extension Planning Study will be communicated to stakeholders and the public through websites (<https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/lugm/>), emails, and social media, including Facebook and X (Twitter). Based on the RFP, a summary of engagement activities is below.

- Periodic LUGM briefings
- Two public meetings
- Stakeholder Interviews

The project manager and outreach team manager are responsible for managing and implementing this PEP.

2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives

- Reach out and seek the involvement and participation of a variety of stakeholders to understand the FDR Blvd Extension project
- Provide equal, accessible, and continuous opportunities for public involvement from diverse stakeholders and encourage attendance and participation at public meetings
- Inform and educate the public on existing conditions, planning progress, and recommendations, and provide the public with an opportunity for testimony about the recommended improvement projects.
- Use public input to improve and select improvement alternatives.
- Develop recommendations based on public and stakeholders' input and feedback to confirm and refine the roadway extension concepts.

3. KEY MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC

This planning study focuses on extending FDR Boulevard from Pegg Road to MD 246 (Great Mills Road) in accordance with the concepts outlined in the Lexington Park Development District Master Plan (LPDDMP) and defines opportunities to improve traffic flow to Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS PAX), reduce pollution emissions, shorten travel times, and reduce congestion and road accidents. Roadway alignment layouts for the FDR Boulevard Extension will be developed as a Complete Street, which includes traffic calming measures to enhance safety for

pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The work will focus on preparing a traffic study and preliminary alignment layout design documentation to implement the desired extension of the roadway in accordance with the C-SMMPO's criteria, regulations, and guidelines.

4. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

There are very diverse needs, perspectives, and opinions related to the roadway improvement. The BAI Team will seek the involvement and participation of a variety of public stakeholders to understand the traffic issues and concerns surrounding MD 235 and the existing FDR Blvd. Any individual or organization interested in participating in the planning process is encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. To ensure the planning study process is successful, this PEP identifies key stakeholders and how they will be engaged throughout the process.

We will examine the needs of the public and stakeholders and develop tailored, strategic communications strategies for each. Our outreach approach focuses on forming an efficient and effective conduit between stakeholders, the County agencies, and the public. This provides a true and reliable input and feedback process, builds support, and underscores the perception of fairness in the planning study process. Our approach typically includes:

- Stakeholder identification
- Public meeting and Stakeholder interviews
- Meeting coordination and facilitation
- Electronic dissemination (websites, text messaging, social media, blogs, e-flyers, etc.)

Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO): The C-SMMPO is the contracting authority for this study and the primary point of review and approval for all PEP activities.

Public and Community Representatives: BAI team will engage the public and communities, especially those populations potentially impacted by the FDR Blvd extension, such as property owners and communities, or special demand on transportation mobility options, and seek input on the traffic and related to reducing traffic congestion through in-person or virtual meetings with their representatives throughout the planning process.

Relevant County Agencies: County public works and transportation, land use, zoning, economic development, and environmental agencies (e.g., DPW&T, LUGM, and DED) often include information that should be considered in the roadway planning study. The BAI Team will contact these agencies to learn about relevant plans and data resources that should be considered in the planning study. Representatives of these agencies will receive email updates throughout the process, including progress updates on the planning study. The extension will impact the Nicolet Park entrance and include a Shared Use Path (R&P input is needed). Also, response times for EMS may be improved with LP Rescue Squad and Bay District VFD on Ex. FDR (opposite side of MD 246).

St. Mary's County Coordinating Committee (CCC): The CCC is composed of representatives from the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM), Economic Development (DED), Recreation and Parks (R&P), Emergency

Services (DES), and NAS PAX. CCC will be convened to provide guidance on the planning process.

Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS/PAX): The BAI team will look to engage NAS/PAX community members during the public engagement process. NAS/PAX is the largest employer in St. Mary's County and is generating major traffic along the MD235 corridor. NAS/PAX representatives will provide feedback on the project material. NAS PAX access is a primary stated goal of the project. Given the base's significant role in generating corridor traffic, the NAS PAX liaison office (or base community relations) will be engaged throughout the study.

Lexington Park Business Association (LexBA): LexBA supports local commerce and promotes Lexington Park as a destination for living, eating, playing, and shopping. Joining together as one voice, business members hope to better represent the best interests of the business community and to create an action plan to tackle top priorities as decided by their members.

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA): SHA's transportation plans and projects often affect the County's transportation system and must be incorporated into the roadway planning study. The BAI team will incorporate SHA's plans and projects in the transportation plan and share the updated transportation plan with SHA.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS

The public engagement activities are designed to identify public needs, traffic problems, institutional issues, and obstacles regarding the FDR Blvd extension and concept alternatives. The first meeting will focus on existing conditions, traffic issues, public and stakeholder concerns, and roadway extension alternatives, and the second meeting will focus on the preferred alternative for FDR Blvd and the corresponding concept design.

Public Meetings. BAI will plan and facilitate two public meetings, including identifying the meeting facility, setting up, attending each meeting, and compiling comments/feedback received at the meetings. We commit to Title VI compliance, Spanish-language outreach materials, and ADA-accessible meeting formats. The materials of public meetings, including planning documents in plain text, presentations, GIS maps, preliminary concept plans, meeting flyers to present alternative concepts, meeting sign-in sheets and comment forms, and digital media, will be used to build public interest and explain concepts in clear ways and to educate the public about the roadway extension plan with proposed improvement projects. Information on the progress of the roadway planning study will be communicated to the public through various channels, including newsletters, email updates, social media, and the website.

BAI will use visualization techniques, such as maps, data charts, graphs, pictures, renderings, and PowerPoint presentations, to tell the public the story of current traffic conditions, performance, trends, deficiencies or gaps, issues, recommendations, planning direction, and considerations during the meeting. The BAI team will plan and coordinate the meetings, while the DPWT and LUGM managers will guide and approve the agenda, schedule, and content. We will record public comments and concerns voiced during the meeting.

Meeting dates (Public Meeting #1: May 26, 2026, at Lexington Park Library; Public Meeting #2: mid-October 2026) and times (TBD) will be communicated to the public through various outreach methods. All public meetings will be announced by the County to the public via:

- Social media
- LUGM Website
- Mailing list
- Posting of notices in public places
- Public service announcements on local radio stations 102.9, 97.7, 98.3
- Public service announcements on local cable channel 95 and YouTube channel
- Email blast

The public meetings will be held in person at the Lexington Park Library. We will also provide technical assistance with delivery, including any preliminary work, presentations, online or other support for the meeting, and processes to gather public involvement.

Interviews. The BAI Team will work with County agencies, including LUGM, DPW&T, DED, DES, and R&P, on outreach and communication efforts to address each agency's specific issues and needs and to facilitate collaboration among the agencies during the planning process. The BAI Team will interview the staff to learn about relevant plans, projects, data resources, and any operational design documents underway that should be considered in the planning study of the FDR Blvd extension, and to document their recommendations.

6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Public Engagement Activities	Duration (Week)	Start	Finish	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11
Hold Meeting with stakeholders (LUGM/CSMMPO/DPW&T) monthly	44	2/27	12/30	2/27	X	4/24	5/26	6/30	7/28	8/25	9/29	10/27	11/24	12/29
Draft Flyer Meeting						4/17								
Send Draft Flyer to County						4/24								
Preliminary Meeting Boards, Roll Map, Handouts, Survey Monkey						5/8								
Send Draft Meeting Materials to County						5/13								
Receive comments from County						5/15								
Finalize and send meeting materials to print						5/18								
Flyer Distribution for First Public meeting (Two weeks prior to first public meeting)							5/7							
First Public Meeting							5/26							
Submit the Comments-Responses Matrix (first public meeting)								6/9						
Flyer Distribution for Second Public meeting (Two weeks prior to second public meeting)												10/5		
Second Public Meeting												10/19		
Submit the Comments-Responses Matrix (second public meeting)													11/2	
Stakeholder Interviews (if needed)							TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD			

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables are outlined in the scope of work related to public and stakeholder engagement:

Public Engagement Plan (PEP)

The current document serves as the Public Engagement Plan (PEP) and will be finalized upon approval by the C-SMMPO.

Public Meeting Materials

PowerPoint presentations for the two public meetings, as well as presentation boards. Public Meeting Summaries.

Comment-Response Matrix

All meeting comments will be compiled into a Comment-Response Matrix submitted with the Draft and Final Plan Document.

Flyer

Two (2) 8.5” x 11” flyers will be created with information about the project and the public meeting dates. The flyers will be distributed to places of worship, community centers, and other areas in St. Mary’s County, as well as through the website, email, and Facebook.