

## eMail to SHA from Jeff Dier, President of LCA and the SHA Reply

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Kelly and Bob, thank you so much for presenting at our Community Association meeting last week. Traffic is obviously a great concern to our neighborhood and we really appreciated your information. To follow up on the issues we discussed at the meeting, we would appreciate feedback on the following: (below)

Please feel free to call me on 443-834-2161 if you need to discuss any of the questions. Thanks again, Jeff Dier.

**Dear Board Members, here is the response from SHA to our questions from the last General Meeting.**

Jeff

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Kelly Kosino <kkosino@sha.state.md.us>  
Date: April 6, 2009 11:37:33 AM EDT  
To: "Jeffrey Dier" <jeffdier@verizon.net>  
Cc: "Bob Steffy Jr" <BSteffy@sha.state.md.us>, "Randy Bosley" <RBosley@sha.state.md.us>  
Subject: RE: MD 139 questions

Mr. Dier:

Thank you for your e-mail regarding your community association's concerns with the I-695 at Charles Street interchange. The following are the answers to your questions.

1. Can we have a copy of the specifications for the Charles Street Project ?

**Response**

The specifications are the SHA 2001 Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials. They can be found on the internet at <http://www.marylandroads.com/businesswithsha/bizStdsSpecs/desManualStdPub/publicationonline/ohd/specifications.asp>

2. Can we have a copy of the contract for the project ?

**Response**

A copy of the Invitation For Bids Book and the Plans can be provided. The full package was sold to contractors for about \$275. If you wanted specific pages then the Invitation For Bids Book would cost 25 cents per page and the plan sheets would cost the cost of reproduction. To receive a package you would need send a written request to:

Eric Marabello  
Chief, Highway Design Division  
707 N Calvert Street  
Baltimore MD 21202  
Mail Stop C-102 // Attn: Jeff Folden

3. Given that the I83 project has been separated out from the current work, what are the status of the public meeting and environmental impact statement? Also is there a project number?

### **Response**

The planning document is the same as it was for the current I-695/Charles Street construction project. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for I-695 from MD 140 to MD 702 was approved by the FHWA on 11/15/91. As per federal requirements, a reevaluation will be performed to verify that the environmental consequences are in compliance with the original document or if any new impacts have occurred which will include all necessary air and noise studies. We just updated the air and noise studies for the current construction project and included the future I-83/Charles Street ramp modification and I-695 widening; however, we would have to update them again and have additional public involvement activities when the future project moves forward. At this time, the future project is on hold and there is no funding available. The project number is currently BA9775B72.

4. The trees that have been removed are to be replaced "in kind." Does this call for mature trees, what kind of trees, and when will this take place?

### **Response**

The "in kind" replacement is a provision of the MD Reforestation Law which requires 1:1 mitigation according to the area of forest removed. For instance, if an acre of forest is removed, then an acre of forest is required to be planted. The current I-695/Charles Street construction project is removing 3.65 acres of forest. Due to the fact that right-of-way is limited and we cannot reforest in areas of future interchange or I-695 widening, we are only able to reforest 1.1 acres on site. The rest of the reforestation will be conducted off site within areas of public right-of-way within the County or watershed.

Mature trees (trees that have reached their full growth size) are not used for replacements as the cost and difficulty of moving fully-grown specimens is prohibitive. Screening and aesthetic plantings, which are in addition to the reforestation planting, are proposed in the vicinity of Bellona Ave near the businesses, between Bellona Ave and Clark Ave, along the I-695 OL off Ramp at Bellona Ave, and in the median of Charles Street. The project also includes 1.18 acres of 'revegetation' plantings, which will be composed of the same plant material as reforestation areas but are too small in area or width to qualify for credit under the MD Reforestation Law. All planting will be installed at the end of the project.

The size of trees to be installed vary according to site conditions and species. The following are specific purpose and sizes:

Reforestation & Revegetation Areas:

Shade/Overstory Trees: Red Maple, Pin Oak, Willow Oak, Black Gum, Sweet Gum, Tulip Tree/Yellow Poplar

Sizes: 1-3/4" caliper, +/- 11' hgt. (along edges), 3/4" caliper, +/- 8' hgt. (interior plantings and on steep slopes)

Flowering/Understory Trees: Serviceberry, Redbud, American Holly

Sizes: 5' hgt. (3' hgt. Am. Holly)

Screening/Median/Aesthetic Plantings: (Occur through out project limits)

Shade/Overstory Trees:

Red Sunset Maple 2-1/2" cal. (+/- 14' height), 3" cal. (+/- 15' hgt.), & 1-3/4" cal. (+/- 11' hgt.)

Pin Oak sizes: 2-1/2" cal. (+/- 14' height), 3" cal. (+/- 15' hgt.), , & 1-3/4" cal. (+/- 11' hgt.)

Greenspire Littleleaf Linden size: 2-1/2" cal. (+/- 14' hgt.)

Green Vase Zelkova, size: 3" cal. (+/- 15' hgt.)

Flowering/Understory Trees:

Serviceberry, Redbud, Cornelian Cherry, Tuscarora Crape Myrtle, 7' hgt., (Crape Myrtles 10' hgt.)

Kousa Dogwood, Winter King Hawthorn, Indian Magic Crabapple: 1-3/4" cal. (height varies)

Okame Cherry size: 2" cal.

Evergreen Trees

Nellie Stevens Holly, Emerald Arborvitae, Eastern White Pine; 6' hgt.

Norway Spruce, Leyland Cypress, 7' hgt.

Notes: Shrub plantings are various sizes, are also included in many of the areas listed above. For trees up to, and including 4" caliper size, caliper is measured around the trunk at 6' above the top of the root flare. The caliper size listed is the minimum acceptable size. Sizes of trees and other landscape stock may vary slightly due to availability during construction.

Thank you again for your e-mail. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 321-2789 or [kkosino@sha.state.md.us](mailto:kkosino@sha.state.md.us).

Thank you,  
Kelly

Kelly Kosino  
District 4 Traffic  
MD State Highway Administration