

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PERPETUAL EASEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MD 175 (Annapolis Road) ROADWAY WIDENING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO FORT GEORGE G. MEADE (FGGM)

1.0 Name of Action: Perpetual Easement for the Proposed MD 175 (Annapolis Road) Roadway Widening and Intersection Improvements Within and Adjacent to FGGM.

2.0 Description of the Proposed Action: A Perpetual Easement is being granted to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) by the Army for the purpose of constructing the MD 175 Project Planning Study Preferred Alternative and interim intersection improvements along MD 175. The Preferred Alternative improvements, pending availability of funds, will ultimately result in a six-lane roadway section with a median and turn lanes (known as Alternative 6 with the 21 ½ Street Option) through a portion of FGGM. An Environmental Assessment/Section 4(f) Evaluation (EA) was prepared by SHA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the Alternative 6 with 21 ½ Street Option improvements. Cooperating agencies for the EA included FGGM, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), National Park Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Interim intersection improvements, also based on availability of funding, are planned along MD 175 and include the MD 713 (Rockenbach/Ridge Road)/Disney Road/26th Street, Reece Road and Mapes Road intersections. For the interim intersection improvements, the Army prepared a Record of Environmental Consideration and SHA received approval on a Categorical Exclusion from FHWA.

SHA will also provide funding to harden two FGGM buildings (Military Entrance Processing Station and Criminal Investigation Division), construct a 10-foot high Reinforced Force Protection Wall from 20th Street to 4th Street, and complete improvements at the Rockenbach Road Access Control Point. A Memorandum of Agreement between SHA and FGGM, dated October 2010, further documents the relationships and responsibilities of the Perpetual Easement. In order to construct the proposed improvements, SHA requires the following from the Army:

- Perpetual Easement for Roadway Improvements: 57.86 acres
- Perpetual Easement for Drainage: 0.35 acre
- Non-Specific Location Permit for Access Roads: 0.29 acre
- Temporary Construction Easement & Non-Specific Permitted Areas: 6.18 acres

Due to the uncertainty of future Fort Meade expansion, the Revertible Easement for Access Roads and portions of the Temporary Construction Easement necessary for the MD 175 Widening Project will be issued closer to the time required through a non-specific location permit, the areas of which shall be mutually agreed to by SHA and FGGM at that time.

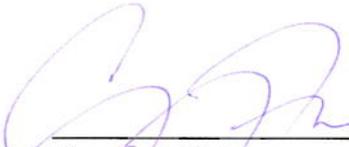
3.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action: In addition to the Preferred Alternative, a total of five alternatives were developed and evaluated. These alternatives ranged from the No-Build, to intersection improvements, to four, five, and six-lane widening alternatives. In addition, four FGGM access options were also considered. Ultimately, these alternatives were not selected because they did not meet the purpose and need of the project, did not satisfy the build year level of service requirements, resulted in additional costs, or increased environmental impacts.

4.0 Anticipated Environmental Impacts: Minor impacts to natural resources on FGGM property are expected as a result of the construction of the MD 175 Preferred Alternative and execution of the Perpetual Easement. These impacts generally consist of woodland and minor wetland impacts from roadway widening and stormwater management. These direct impacts are minor and have been minimized to the extent possible (bearing in mind other considerations such as minimum building standoff distances). No impacts to special wetlands or rare, threatened or endangered species are anticipated. These improvements will comply with MDE, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations and FGGM Forest Conservation Act and Tree Management Policy to minimize impacts to water quality and to address forest conservation requirements. Additionally, no historic properties will be impacted on Fort Meade property.

The construction of the MD 175 Preferred Alternative and execution of the Perpetual Easement will not result in a change of the overall mission of Fort Meade or adversely affect existing or future tenants on the installation. The proposed action will support the overall mission of Fort Meade by providing improved access to the installation for current and future employees and tenants.

Findings: Implementing the proposed action addressed in the attached EA would not be expected to significantly alter baseline environmental or socioeconomic conditions. Because the proposed action would not be expected to have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the natural or human environment, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. None of the foreseeable indirect effects of the proposed action are expected to be significant, either singly or cumulatively, on the natural or human environment at FGGM.

Date: 1/18/11



Gregory I. Slater
Director
Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering
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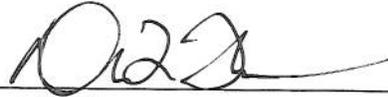
Reviewed and
Recommended for Approval by:

Date: 24 JAN 2011



Michael P. Butler
Chief, Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works, Fort Meade

Date: 31 JAN 2011



Daniel L. Thomas
Colonel, Military Intelligence
Commanding