

BRANDYWINE, MD – This afternoon, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) joined the State Highway Administration for a ceremony marking the completion of Phase I of the Brandywine Interchange Project, which seeks to help ease traffic congestion during peak travel times on MD 5 by providing additional lane capacity and improving pedestrian safety. Construction began in the Spring of 2010 and was completed on August 20, 2011. Hoyer has secured more than \$18 million for the multi-phased project.

“For years, thousands of Prince George’s County and Southern Maryland residents have factored several minutes of gridlock along MD 5 between Brandywine Road and MD 373 into their daily commutes, negatively impacting their quality of life and the regional economy,” **state d Congressman Hoyer**.

“Widening this stretch to three lanes in both directions should go a long way toward alleviating this problem. I am proud to have lead the efforts at the Federal level to secure the investment necessary to complete this project.”

Governor Martin O’Malley was scheduled to attend today’s ribbon-cutting ceremony, but due to the issues that arose as a result of the expected impact of Hurricane Irene, he was unable to make it and provided the following statement in support of the project:

“This project is important to supporting jobs and preserving the quality of life for residents in Southern Maryland,” **said Governor O’Malley**. “Thanks to Congressman Hoyer and all of our federal partners, we can provide much-needed relief for commuters and improve safety for residents and travelers in Prince George’s and Charles Counties.”

The improvements to MD 5 (Branch Avenue) at MD 373 and Brandywine Road include widening to three lanes in each direction, upgrading traffic signals and constructing ADA-compliant sidewalks for pedestrian traffic.

This project is intended to help ease traffic congestion experienced during peak travel times on MD 5 by providing additional lane capacity. More than 65,000 vehicles travel through this

intersection each day; this volume is expected to surpass 97,000 by 2030. MD 5 connects the District of Columbia to Prince George's County and Southern Maryland, the state's fastest growing region.

The improvements represent the first of two phases that will eventually include a new interchange and a ridesharing lot to alleviate the increase in traffic spurred by population growth in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland.

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