

PURPOSE & NEED

PURPOSE

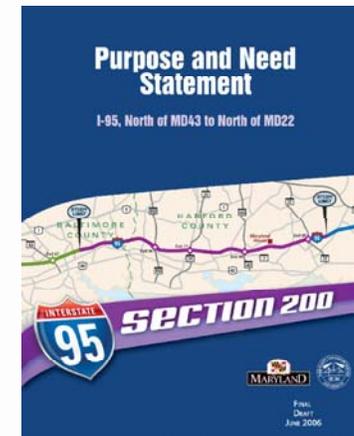
The purpose of the study is to address capacity and safety needs on Section 200 and thereby improve access, mobility, and safety for local, regional, and inter-regional traffic, including passenger, freight, and transit vehicles.

NEED

The study is intended to address the following capacity and safety needs on Section 200:

CAPACITY

- Currently, Section 200 south of the MD 24 interchange operates at Level of Service (LOS) E during the morning and evening rush hour.
- By 2030, the entire Section 200 corridor is also expected to operate at LOS F during weekend peak periods.
- Increased congestion levels will extend the existing peak hour into a period of several hours and increase traffic diverting to alternate routes, such as the community oriented US 40, MD 22, and MD 7.



SAFETY

- From 2002 to 2004, the number of accidents on Section 200 increased by 23 percent.
- Approximately 50 percent of the reported accidents were identified as congestion related, such as side swipe and rear end.
- If the anticipated congestion levels are not addressed, an increase in numbers and severity of accidents will likely occur.