

# Baltimore-Washington Parkway Traffic Safety Task Force

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Subcommittee



Superintendent Matthew D. Carroll  
NPS – Baltimore-Washington Parkway

# Overview

- National Park Service Organization and Administration
- Safety Issues along the B-W Parkway
- Current Repair Schedule
- B-W Parkway Safety Task Force
- Cooperation Opportunities



# Organization

## National Capital Parks-East

One of several National Capital Region (NCR) parks consisting of 13 park sites, parkways and statuary covering more than 8,000 acres of historic, cultural, and recreational parklands from Capitol Hill to the nearby Northern and Southern Maryland suburbs

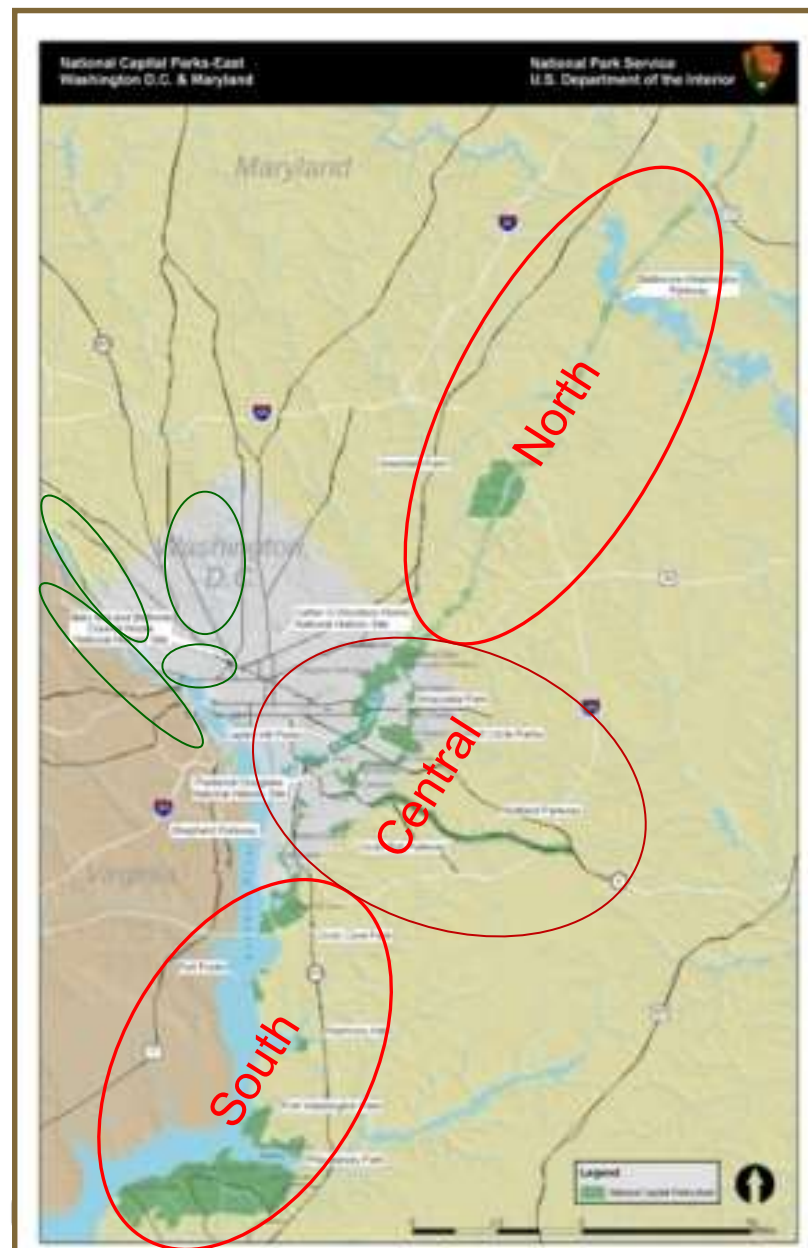
## Central Parks: Tara Morrison

- Chief of Maintenance: Diana Bramble

## Northern Parks: Matthew Carroll

- Chief of Maintenance: Eric Harris

## Southern Parks: Christine Smith



# Baltimore-Washington Parkway

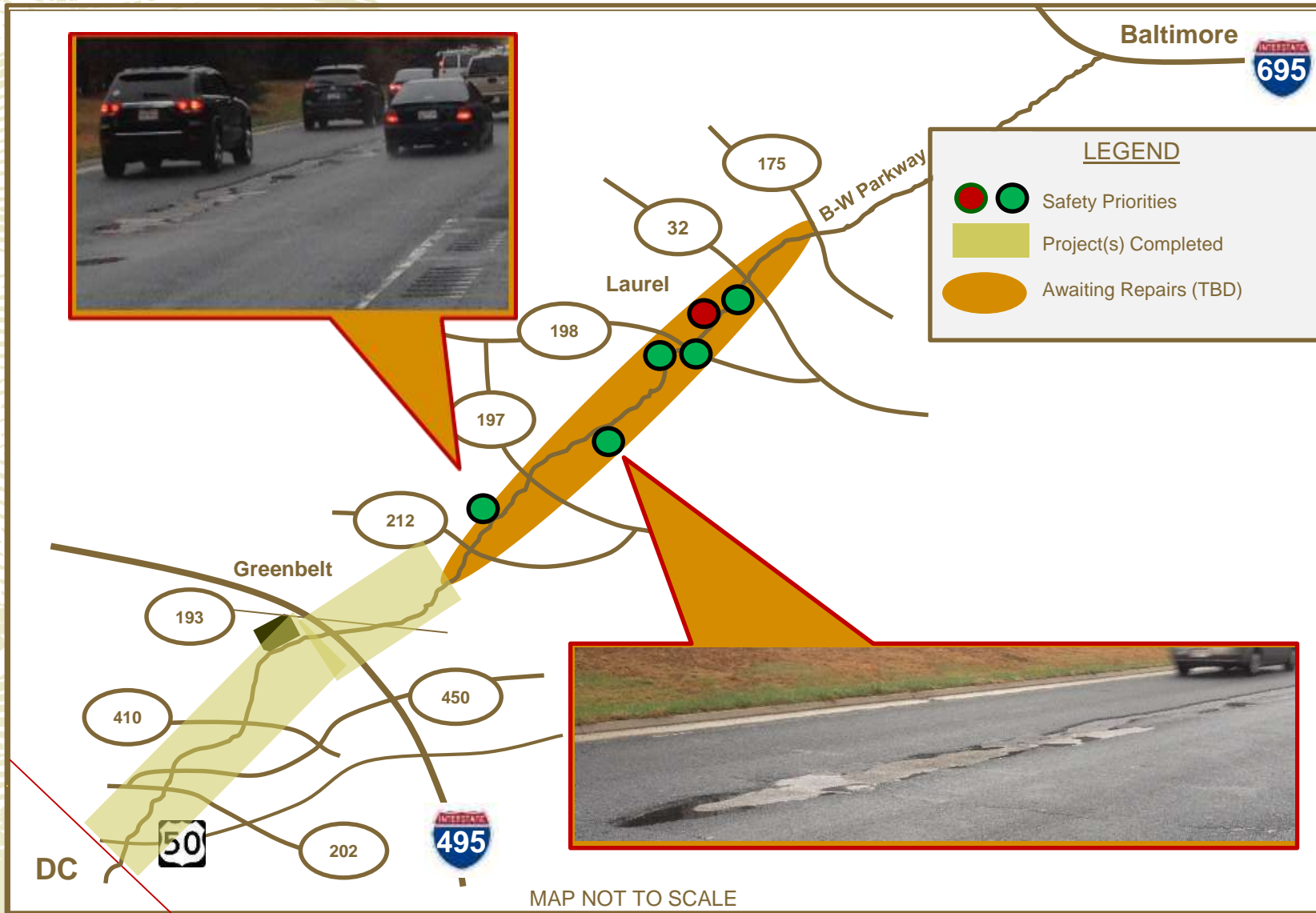
- Established by Congress on August 3, 1950
- Opened in 1954 as a 29-mile scenic highway
  - One of multiple scenic entries into the nation's capital
  - A unique cultural landscape that blends architectural treatments with natural topography and scenic forests
- The NPS administers 18 miles of the 29-mile roadway
  - Maintenance efforts focus on safety, preservation of the aesthetic qualities and enhancing parkway character
- Fundamental Resources and Values
  - Transportation Safety and Infrastructure
  - Parkway Landscape
  - Architectural Treatments

# Superintendent Vision & Priorities

- Vision for B-W Parkway: Ensure a safe, aesthetic throughway to our Nation's capital for visitors, commuters and employees
  
- **Priorities**
  1. Improve visitor experience, customer support & partnerships
  2. Institute sound business practices
  3. Foster a culture of safety in daily operations
  4. Ensure good stewardship of park resources and facilities
  5. Develop and support a professional workforce



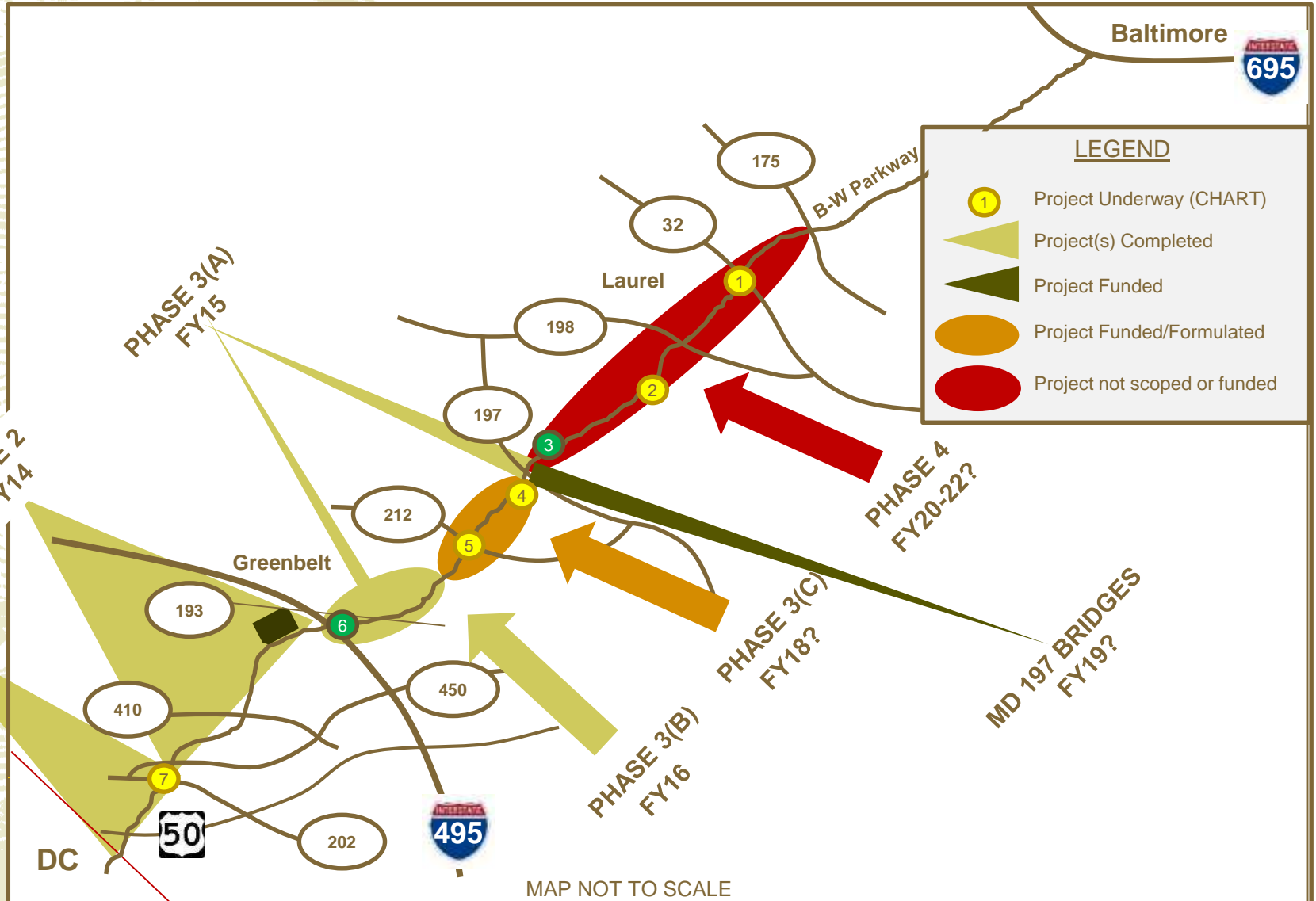
# Parkway Immediate Safety Concerns



# Additional Safety Concerns

- Contractor, Maintenance and US Park Police operations
- Vegetation
- Lane Striping, Guardrail and Stone Guardwall Repairs
- Failing Culverts and Substructure
- Signage

# Current Parkway Repair Schedule





# Current Parkway Repair Schedule (cont)

- BAWA 1(4), 2(4) – Mainline repaving to Beaver Dam Rd
- Top 5 Priority Repairs
- Restriping NB and SB between Powder Mill Rd & MD 175
- Culvert repairs at MD 198 and Goodluck Road
- Coordinated Highways Action Response Team (CHART)
- Vegetation removal
- Greenbelt Salt Storage Facility
- US Park Police District 4 Renovation

# B-W Parkway Safety Task Force Update

- Convening a stakeholder-led Task Force to help implement recommendations was a key conclusion of the *Safety Plan*.



**Traffic Safety Task Force**  
Baltimore-Washington Parkway

**Task Force Chair**  
Matthew Carroll, Superintendent

## Executive Committee

National  
Park Service

U.S. Park  
Police

Eastern Federal Lands  
Highway Division

Maryland Live  
Casino

Maryland  
SHA

## Members

Baltimore-Washington Parkway Local, Regional, State, and Federal Stakeholders

## Emphasis Area Teams

Engineering and  
Maintenance Team

Enforcement and Emergency  
Services Team

Education Team

# Task Force Initiatives

- Engineering
  - Clear Zones
  - Shoulder Area Improvements and Pullouts (4)
  - Crossover Improvements
  - Pavement Markings
  - Lighting at Major Interchanges





# Task Force Initiatives

- Education Team
  - Hero Program (co-sponsor Maryland Live Casino)
  - Engagement with key constituents
  - Strategic Communications
  - Signage at Entry Points



# Task Force Initiatives

- Enforcement / Emergency Response
  - Equipment
  - Concurrent Jurisdiction
  - Mile Markers and Exit Numbers
  - Motorist Assistance
  - Joint Traffic Incident Management

# Cooperation opportunities

- Snow operation efficiencies
- B-W Parkway Safety Task Force Membership
- Mile marker posts (MD-NPS)
- Baltimore-D.C corridor study
- Construction notices and communication
- Vehicle washing
- FASTLANE Grant cooperation



# Recap

- National Park Service Organization and Administration
- Safety Issues along the B-W Parkway
- Current Repair Schedule
- B-W Parkway Safety Task Force
- Cooperation Opportunities

*Questions?*

# Assessment of Conditions

- Federal Highway Administration and NPS Denver Service Center characterized roadway deterioration as;
  - Failed patches due to shoving, oxidation
  - Alligator cracking
  - High severity rutting
  - Delamination
  - Failed longitudinal joints
  - Surface beyond service life
  - Cracking along horizontal joints of cement base