InterCounty Connector Inter Agency Working Group

Source: InterCounty Connector Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 2006

With a study of the magnitude of the Intercounty Connector (ICC), interagency coordination early and throughout the study process was imperative to a successful outcome. With that in mind, members of the ICC study team initiated coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies. The Interagency Working Group (IAWG) was established to provide input and technical expertise and to guide the preparation of information in the environmental documents and permit applications for the ICC. The group consisted of environmental managers or regulatory staff from the Federal, State, and local agencies involved in the project. The group goals were to build trust, communication and cooperation, identify and resolve issues early and quickly, recognize and respect agency roles and responsibilities, and to work in partnership to develop technical methodologies and analysis.

Participating agencies include the following:

- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (MC DPWT)
- Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation (PG DPWT)
- Maryland Historical Trust (MHT/MD SHPO)
- Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) (Montgomery County)
- Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) (Prince George’s County)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)
- Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA)
- Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

The IAWG was intended as a forum to address and resolve agency issues in a timely manner. The IAWG meetings were facilitated by a neutral third party who aided in the timely resolution of any disputes. A three step hierarchy dispute resolution process was followed, if and when disputes occurred that could not be resolved.