

# In brief

*From staff reports*

## State Highway Administration to lengthen US 340 ramps

Maryland's State Highway Administration will begin work to lengthen ramps at three locations along U.S. 340 in southwestern Frederick County.

The \$17.4 million project to extend acceleration ramps will begin with crews installing concrete barriers and other work zone safety devices, according to an SHA press release on Tuesday.

The work will include extending the existing ramps, as well as adding tapers, in which the width of the lane gradually decreases to allow traffic to merge with vehicles in an existing lane.

The project will include work at:

- Md. 17 to U.S. 340 eastbound: The existing 235-foot ramp will be extended to about 1,230 feet long, with a 300-foot taper.

- Md. 17 to U.S. 340 westbound: The existing 390-foot ramp will be extended to about 1,230 feet, with a 300-foot taper.

- Md. 180 to U.S. 340 eastbound: The existing 235-foot ramp will be extended to about 580 feet, with a 300-foot taper.

- Md. 180 to U.S. 340 westbound: The existing 160-foot ramp will be extended to about 820 feet, with a 300-foot taper.

- U.S. 15 northbound to U.S. 340 eastbound: The existing 175-foot ramp will be extended to about 580 feet, with a 300-foot taper.

The speed limit through the work zone will be lowered from 65 mph to 55 mph during the construction.

The Francis O. Day Company of Rockville will be the primary contractor.

U.S. 340 was originally built in the 1910s, and the ramps were added during an expansion of the highway in the 1960s, according to the SHA news release.

— *Ryan Marshall*