



S T R A U G H A N
E N V I R O N M E N T A L
S E R V I C E S , I N C .

Wetland Delineation Bi-County Transitway

Location: Silver Spring/New Carrollton, Maryland

Client: Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration

Description: The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is performing a study of alternatives to provide a 14-mile high-capacity transit route to link Bethesda with New Carrollton Metrorail stations. Effectively, this project would allow a direct connection between the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Red, Green, and Orange METRO Lines. Straughan Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) identified all wetlands and large trees within the proposed 100-foot wide 14-mile corridor that traverses Rock Creek, Sligo Creek, Northwest Branch, Northeast Branch, and Brier Ditch and their associated stream valley parks, as well as residential and commercial areas.

SES' efforts helped MTA develop alternatives that avoid and minimize impacts during the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) alternatives development process and subsequent detailed designs. These efforts will provide the baseline data necessary for issuance of a Joint Federal/State Section 404 Permit and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Roadside Tree Permit. SES field crews delineated nine wetland areas and 62 "waters of the U.S." and identified over 250 trees that satisfied MDNR's definition of specimen trees.

Laws SES addressed in this study included:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Maryland State Forest Conservation Act