

New Bypasses Topic of Forum In Leesburg

The routes of proposed eastern and western Washington bypasses will be the subject of a meeting Tuesday in Leesburg. The 200-mile road system proposed for Washington's outer suburbs is being studied by Maryland and Virginia transportation officials.

Planners for the as-yet-unfunded bypasses have narrowed the western choices to six routes in Virginia, only one of which would be east of Dulles International Airport, and are focusing on the Rte. 301 corridor in Maryland for the eastern route.

The bypasses, sometimes called the outer beltway, are estimated to cost more than \$1 billion. The new roads have been under consideration for some time, largely as a way to draw traffic off the Capital Beltway.

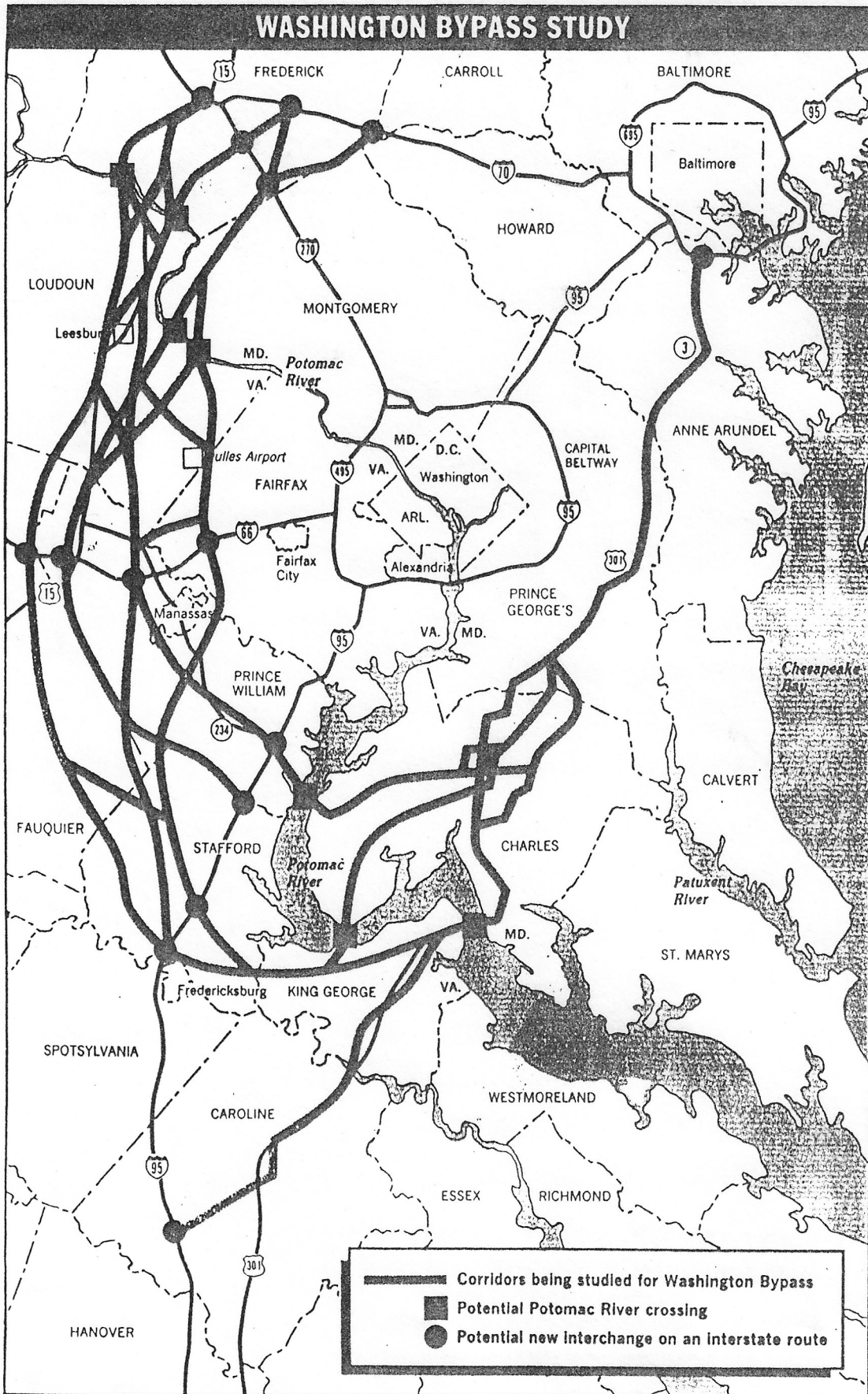
The Virginia and Maryland departments of transportation agreed in August 1987 to finance a study of the bypasses. The consulting firm of Bellomo-McGee Inc. was awarded an 18-month contract to study the need, feasibility and costs of the bypasses and to develop a consensus between Maryland and Virginia.

The financing and identification of financing sources for any recommended roadways are outside the scope of this study, which will be completed in the fall of 1989. If Maryland and Virginia agree, construction could begin in the mid-1990s.

A telephone hot line has been established to answer questions about the highway proposals. In the Washington area, the number is 847-3071; from other areas, the toll-free number is (800) 288-0283.

The meeting will be from 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Westpark Hotel, 59 Clubhouse Dr., Leesburg.

There also will be a meeting from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday at Poolesville High School, 17501 Willard Rd., Poolesville. Four other meetings—two in Virginia and two in Maryland—have been held in other areas that would be affected by the proposed roads.



BY DAVE COOK—THE WASHINGTON POST