

## HISTORY OF THE BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON PARKWAY

The birth of the Baltimore and Washington Parkway, began on August 3rd, 1950 with the introduction of Public Law #643 before the -1st Congress. This act provided for the construction, development and administration of the parkway, in the State of Maryland and its extension into the District of Columbia as a part of the park system of the District of Columbia and it's environs, by the Secretary of Interior.

The purpose of the Parkway was to provide a limited access road as a dignified protected, safe, and suitable approach for passenger vehicle traffic to the Nation's Capital and for an additional means of access between the several Federal Establishments adjacent thereto and the seat of Government in the District of Columbia. To avoid impairment of this purpose the Secretary of Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce were empowered to control the location, limit the number of access points, and regulate the use of the parkway by various classes and types of vehicles or traffic.

In November 1953, the United States Park Police assumed jurisdiction and patrol of the then, uncompleted roadway and the portions completed subsequently. The remaining portion from Maryland State Route #175 north to Baltimore is under the jurisdiction of Maryland State Police.