



*Coatings For Industry, Inc.*

Phone: (215) 723-0919 Fax: (215) 723-0911

## The Capital and Baltimore Beltways



Free of graffiti, polyurethane-coated noise barriers line the Capital Beltway's Ritchie Parkway Interchange in Gaithersburg, MD (right), and the Catonsville Road exit of the Baltimore Beltway (below).

Because it is “a powerful deterrent to further vandalism,” the Maryland State Highway Administration has a policy to remove graffiti within 24 hours of its appearance, according to William Kuhl, Environment Design Team Leader.

To help maintain this policy along several miles worth of noise barriers lining the Capital Beltway, Baltimore Beltway and Interstate 270 corridor, the administration selected an easy-to-clean, two-component polyurethane clearcoat. The self-priming coating, manufactured by **Coatings For Industry, Inc.** of Souderton, PA, is based on Desmodur aliphatic polyisocyanates and Desmophen polyester polyols from **Bayer**.

The tough coating was applied to the aggregate-finished, reinforced concrete structures – which are an average 18 feet tall – when they were erected over the past decade.

Uncoated surfaces will retain “shadows” from spray paint graffiti even after intensive cleaning, Mr. Kuhl explained. But, the polyurethane clearcoat helps cleaning crews remove all traces of the offending paint, he said.

The gloss of the polyurethane coating, which helps to bring out the natural earth tones of the aggregate finish, also has held up well, he noted.



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