

City of Rockville, Maryland – Department of Public Works
Traffic and Transportation Weekly Report
Week Ending 01/22/2012

Administrative:

- Staff presented the Twinbrook Safer Walkways to Transit Study to the North Bethesda Transportation Management District on 1/18/12. (MF)
- Staff attended RFP #12-12 Evaluation Committees "Kick-Off" Meeting. (DS, MF, PC, RT)

Traffic Engineering/Operations: (DS)

- Number of turning movement and pedestrian counts to date (FY 2012): 16
- Completed 33 streetlight service calls and 9 traffic signal/flasher service calls.
- Reported 6 streetlight outages to Pepco and prepared 5 permits for no-voltage.
- Reported 1 streetlight problem to the contractor.
- Checked W. Gude Drive for streetlight outage.
- Tested 2 Conflict Monitor Units/Malfunction Management Units and replaced 1 unit.
- Tested communication for 20 intersections using Aries software.
- Conducted a site visit to Thompson Dairy/Redland regarding a No Parking sign request.
- Conducted site visits to intersections on W. Gude regarding a service request.
- Worked on Gibbs Street parking space issues regarding Police's service requests.
- Reviewed traffic signal timing data at Wootton Pkwy/Hurley and Wootton Pkwy/Rockshire regarding a service request.
- Worked on traffic operations simulation for the proposed traffic control plan for W. Gude Drive sewer upgrade project.
- Started to review and evaluate RFP#12-12 proposals.
- Reviewed revised traffic study for Twinbrook Metro Development.
- Issued 1 Work Order regarding a service request.

Development Review: (RT/PC)

- 1) The Village of Rockville (National Lutheran Home) - 9701 Veirs Drive – The applicant was previously approved for 300 skilled nursing beds proposes to reduce it to 160 and add 50 assisted living units. In addition, the applicant proposes a new drop off area toward the rear of the building. The trip generation for the proposed amendment is less than the previous approval.
- 2) Twinbrook Metro Center - 1592 Rockville Pike submitted a Scoping Intake Form for 850 dwelling unit high-rise apartment complex, 190,000 SF of general office space, 70,000 SF retail, 200 hotel rooms, and 36,000 SF health. The applicant attended the October Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting. The project plan application will need approval by the Mayor and Council. The applicant resubmitted plans and the Transportation Report. Applicant will be presenting before the Planning Commission for their recommendation for project approval on 1/25/2012.
- 3) Twinbrook Square (Twinbrook West) - 1800 Rockville Pike proposes a mixed used development of 99,500 SF of retail and restaurant, 345 family dwelling units, with 68 surface parking spaces and approximately 510 below-grade parking spaces. Staff provided comments on the site plan and Transportation Report. The Traffic and Transportation Commission will review this application at their December meeting. The applicant resubmitted plans and the Transportation Report.

- 4) 1900 Chapman Ave (Syms site) – has submitted a scoping intake form to increase the size of development from 420 multi-family units to 720 multi-family units. The applicant will be required to meet with the Traffic and Transportation Commission. Staff met with the applicant to discuss the Chapman Avenue street section between Halpine and Twinbrook Parkway. A Transportation Report was submitted in late December, 2011 to staff for review.
- 5) 718 Rockville Pike – Change of use from Auto dealership to auto car care facility, retail, medical office and high turnover restaurant. The net new peak hour trips are under 30.
- 6) AutoZone – 15190 Frederick Road – Staff received a scoping intake form for demolition of the existing gas station and constructing an auto parts store. Staff provided comments to the applicant at DRC.
- 7) Rockville Seventh Day Adventist Church – 727 W Montgomery Avenue – Staff received a scoping intake form to demolish an existing building and enlarge the parking lot. No additional trips are proposed for the use. Staff provided comments to the applicant at DRC.
- 8) Walgreens – 430 Hungerford Dr. The site is currently occupied by 13,878 square feet of commercial building space that is vacant that was once occupied the Orange Ball Billiards and is now being proposed to be leased by Walgreens Pharmacy. The site was scoped out to generate total net new trips of 65 AM, 144 PM, and 148 Saturday trips. The applicant is scheduled to meet with the Traffic and Transportation Commission on 1/24/2012.

CIP:

Accessible Pedestrian Signals - APS (AL)

- This project consists of installing APS for 11 intersections. This project is substantially complete. Miscellaneous wiring, signal work, and striping remain. The pavement patching, and some signal work was completed.

Baltimore Road (AL)

- This is a CIP project to improve the east side of Baltimore Road between MD 28 and City limits. The project consultant submitted the 65% plans to the City, utility companies, and MDSHA on 2-10-11. Staff is currently planning and coordinating property acquisition with the SHA and the consultant. Staff contacted property owners regarding property acquisition.

Bus Shelters (RT)

- The Mayor and Council approved the awarding of the bus-shelter advertising contract to Creative Outdoor Advertising on October 24, 2011.

Pedestrian Safety

- Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Funds: The scope of this project is for the upgrade of three signalized intersections to include the installation of accessible pedestrian signals, countdown pedestrian signal heads, and ADA compliant sidewalk ramps. Construction has begun. The contractor has set pushbutton pedestal foundations, conduit, and pushbutton poles at two intersections. Contractor installed pushbutton pole foundations at the third intersection. (AL)
- Sidewalk ramps were installed along N. Horners Ln. and Watts Branch Pkwy in conjunction with the annual concrete maintenance project. This work is substantially complete.

Sidewalks (MF)

- Falls Road: Staff plan to address SWM issues through the Horizon Hill SWM pond retrofit project, to meet SHA requirements. Staff submitted project information to SHA District 3 to request funding through the State's Sidewalk Retrofit program.

- Monroe Street Sidewalk: Construction of Phase I: Big Oak Ct – Fireside Apartments is complete. Phase II: Fireside Apartments – Dogwood Park will be scheduled for construction following approval of a public sidewalk easement. This easement is a condition of approval for Fireside Apartments Community Center construction.
- Lewis Avenue: Relocation of fire hydrants associated with sidewalk construction was completed on 11/4/11. This project will be scheduled for construction in spring 2012.
- Gruenther Avenue: Staff is coordinating with the consultant to revise bid documents/ construction estimates and with the Purchasing Division to prepare those documents for bid. Staff has requested, and received, an extension from SHA to the current grant year.
- Avery Road sidewalk: Staff is coordinating with the consultant to complete the design. Staff received concept approval for SWM requirements on 11/28.
- Anderson Avenue: Preliminary work associated with relocation of a fire hydrant at Mannakee St was completed the week of 11/7. Staff received concept approval for SWM requirements on 11/28. Staff is coordinating with four property owners in the west end to secure easements for storm drain improvements associated with the sidewalk project and existing storm drain infrastructure. Staff is coordinating with the purchasing division and the consultant to prepare a change order for Mayor and Council approval to permit additional unforeseen design tasks associated with this project.
- Wootton Parkway: Staff is coordinating with the consultant to address SWM requirements as part of the 65% design plans. The consultant will proceed with geotechnical site work following issuance of a PWK permit, processing of a change order, and public notification.
- St. Raphael’s Bike Path: Staff held a kick-off meeting to establish a scope for this project and to set a schedule on 6/6/11. Survey work will commence in the fall and design is expected to be completed in spring 2012.

Streetlights (AL)

- This project consists of the replacement of poles and fixtures on W. Montgomery, N. Washington, W. Middle, Wood, and Beall, and replacement of fixtures in several other neighborhoods in the City. This project is now complete.
- Bid Opening for the Streetlight Maintenance contract was 9/13/11. The award was approved by Mayor and Council at the October 10, 2011 meeting. The contract has been issued to the contractor. Maintenance work will take place on an as needed basis.

Traffic Controls: Citywide (DS)

- *Complete.*

Battery Back-up Systems - BBS (DS)

- *Complete.*

Transportation Planning:

Policy and Plans

- **Rockville Pike Corridor Plan Update: (PC)**
 - Staff is currently working with CPDS on a cost of estimate for the project.
 - A presentation will take place with the Planning Commission on transportation infrastructure financing by lobbyists from the firm Holland and Knight. They will provide an overview of federal, state and local sources of funds for transportation projects, possibilities for augmenting those sources through increased revenues, how

major arterial redevelopment projects could be funded or have been funded in other places, typical project development process for transportation improvements, especially when reliant on federal funding, how transit investment could occur along a corridor, and the relationship between this type of investment and both economic development and enhanced livability.

- **City Master Plan: (PC)**
 - Completed Initial Review of the 2002 City Master Plan and provided comments to Long-Range Planning.
 - Staff is currently reviewing Master Plans from other jurisdictions and contacting them for lessons learned. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission will be providing staff with updated maps for Traffic Volumes. Staff will also be gathering data over the course of the next few months to update Existing Conditions Intersection Level of Service and the Pedestrian Facilities.
 - Staff has begun work on revising the road code to reflect current standards to make it compatible and consistent with other City guidelines.
 - Community Planning and Development Services (*CPDS*) will introduce to the Planning Commission the recommended approach to revising the Comprehensive Master Plan on January 13, 2012. Based on the feedback from the Planning Commission, CPDS will be making revisions and discuss them further at future Planning Commission meetings.

- **Bikeway Master Plan:** Completed a review of the existing BMP that identified infrastructure already constructed, not constructed, but still possible and not constructed and not possible. The review findings were presented to RBAC and staff held the first meet for the BMP update to discuss the process and ideas the subcommittee members. Staff met with the committee on 11/1/11 to discuss other bikeway master plans and additional routes in the City. Staff met with the consultant to discuss further scope of work details. Staff met with the consultant and committee members to define study areas for new bicycle facilities. (RT)

- **Montgomery County Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study Group (PC)**
 - Montgomery County Department of Transportation made a presentation to the Mayor and Council on June 20, 2011 to share the findings of a countywide BRT.
 - The State Highway Administration (SHA) has put together the MD 586 - Veirs Mill Road Bus Rapid Transit Purpose and Need Team. The first meeting, held in September to review the draft Purpose and Need for the project that will be presented in an Open House format in December 2011. SHA hopes to complete the study by late 2013.
 - M-NCPPC met with City Staff on November 4 for an interview to gather information regarding potential BRT routes inside the City limits including MD 355 South (DC Line to MD 28), MD 355 North (MD 28 and Northward to Germantown/Clarksburg), MD 28 (W. Montgomery Ave), MD 28 (Norbeck Road), MD 586 (Wheaton to Rockville). The transfer point for all routes would be at the Rockville Metro Station. It has been determined by the BRT Task Force that there will be no lanes taken away to retrofit BRT along any of these routes.
 - On December 15, 2011, the Planning Board will be considering the BRT study's Network and Methodology Report, which evaluates 16 corridors and recommends changes to the scope of the project. This includes the routes inside the City limits that are mentioned in the previous bullet.

- **Montgomery County Revisions to the LATR (PC)**

- M-NCPPC has a consultant on board to revise the County's LATR-PAMR guidelines and is scheduled for approval September 2012. The consultant administered a comprehensive questionnaire to the City on its process for development reviews and the Comprehensive Transportation Review Methodology. The M-NCPPC staff and the consultant will be meeting periodically to update the team members on their progress.
- City Staff met with M-NCPPC staff on November 4 to discuss coordination between the two jurisdictions on developments that are occurring outside the City limits and how the LATR-PAMR for the county and the CTR for the City may be administered depending on the location of the developments. M-NCPPC will have a meeting on November 15 to discuss information that has been gathered on the comprehensive questionnaire. Further discussion will take place on the issue of developments occurring outside the City limits with other agencies that will be attending this meeting for their input.
- M-NCPPC has tentatively scheduled a meeting on January 31, 2012 to discuss the schedule update of the revised LATR-PAMR. Discussion will include a mock transportation report that shows three different methodologies for performing the analyses: one using the county's current CLV standards, the second using HCM, and the third using person throughput. Further discussion will continue regarding inter-jurisdictional traffic mitigation issues between the county and the effected municipalities and other agencies.

Regional/National Coordination

- Transportation/ Land Use Connections Grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: COG approved this grant to update the Bikeway Master Plan.
- Capital Bikeshare implementation: The City of Rockville and Montgomery County were awarded funding to implement 20 Capital Bikeshare stations through the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant. Staff met with Montgomery County staff on 11/14 to discuss selection criteria for potential station locations.

Street Closing/ Abandonment (MF)

- Woodland Road (SCA2011-00099): The Mayor and Council approved this abandonment via the consent agenda on 12/12/11.
- Anderson Avenue (SCA2012-00100): This application has been accepted by the City Clerk and will be scheduled for an upcoming Mayor and Council meeting.
- Pleasant Road: Staff is preparing an application to abandon the portion of Pleasant Road between Piccard Drive and the City limit. This application will be submitted following review by the Engineering Division.

[Emad Elshafei]