City of Rockville, Maryland

Mayor and Council of Rockville
Draft Rockville's Pike Plan: Bus and Walking Tour
Saturday, November 1, 2014

Meeting No. 38-14

Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Bus leaves at 10:00 am from upper parking lot (Vinson Street)

Agenda

The purpose of the Bus and Walking Tour is to familiarize the Mayor and Council and other participants with existing transportation and land use conditions in the Rockville Pike corridor, discuss current and pending development projects in the South Pike and their relationship to the draft plan, and note features of the draft plan in the context of the physical environment. Members of the public are invited to attend. Meet at City Hall by 10:00 a.m. to ride the bus or at the Twinbrook Metro station at Halpine Road and Chapman Avenue at 10:30 a.m. to join the walking portion of the tour.

Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland
Attest: Sara Taylor-Ferrell, Acting City Clerk/Treasurer

City of Rockville
Mayor and Council
Agenda Item

For the meeting on:	November 1, 2014
Agenda Item Type:	Discussion
Department:	Community Planning and Development Services
Division:	Long Range Planning
Responsible staff:	Cynthia Kebba, Planner III phone: (240) 314 - 8233 email: CKebba@rockvillemd.gov

Subject
Draft Rockville's Pike Plan: Walking and Bus Tour of Plan Area

Recommendation
Take a walking and bus tour of the Rockville's Pike Plan area

Change in Law or Policy
Adoption of Rockville's Pike Plan would represent an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Master Plan. It would update the 1989 City policy for the Rockville Pike Corridor (Planning Area 9) in the areas of transportation, land use, parks and open space.

Discussion
The purpose of the walking/bus tour is to familiarize the Mayor and Council and other participants with existing transportation and land use conditions in the Rockville Pike corridor, discuss current and pending development projects along the Pike and their relationship to the draft plan, and note features of the draft plan in the context of the physical environment. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The following describes the proposed route and agenda for the tour. All time estimates are approximate. The tour will take no more than two hours in total. A map of the proposed route is at Attachment A.

Bus ride to begin the tour (10:00-10:30) - **Start at Rockville City Hall**
The Mayor and Council, participating staff, and members of the community who wish to attend will meet at the upper parking lot of City Hall (entrance on Vinson Street), prepared to board the bus for departure at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 1. The bus will travel down Fleet Street, by the proposed Fleet Street extension, follow Wootton Parkway to Edmonston Drive, and turn onto the southbound lanes of Rockville Pike. Staff will talk throughout the bus tour, pointing out existing conditions and answering questions. Upon reaching the southern boundary of the Planning Area, the bus will turn left (east) onto Twinbrook Parkway and then left (north) onto Chapman Avenue. Staff will point out the locations of approved development projects in the area, including Twinbrook Square and the Hines project at the

former Syms site, and the Twinbrook Metro Station.

Walking portion of tour (approximately 1/2 mile; 10:30-11:30) - **Start at Twinbrook Metro Station Parking Garage**
Passengers will disembark from the bus at the Twinbrook Metro Station parking garage at the intersection of Halpine Road and Chapman Avenue, at approximately 10:30 a.m. Other participants are welcome to join the group at this location. The group will walk west along Halpine Road to the Pike. We will stop to talk about existing and proposed walking conditions, sidewalks, width of the Pike, location of access roads and other features, as well as the proposed extension of Chapman Avenue. The group will continue to walk north along the Pike and cross at Congressional Lane. The bus will meet the group in the parking lot on the north side of Congressional Plaza, where we will again board the bus.

Bus ride to complete the tour (11:30-12:00)
The final leg of the tour will be to drive from E. Jefferson Street to Halpine Road and back to the Pike, heading north to City Hall. This part of the tour will give staff the opportunity to point out the portion of the east side of the Pike where lots are particularly shallow, as well as discuss any other topics of interest to the Mayor and Council.

The draft plan is available on the project's Web site (www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike). Hard copies are available for review at the Community Planning and Development Services Department at City Hall; the Twinbrook and Rockville public libraries; the Lincoln Park, Twinbrook, and Thomas Farm community centers; and the Senior Center.

Mayor and Council History

On July 14, 2014, the Mayor and Council discussed a process for its review of the Planning Commission's draft of Rockville's Pike Plan and opened the public record for written testimony. Testimony for the public record may be sent by email to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or mailed to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850.

On July 21, 2014, staff and Planning Commission Chairman Don Hadley provided a briefing on the contents of the draft Plan to the Mayor and Council. That presentation may be viewed at http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=3171.

On August 11, 2014, the Mayor and Council established four dates for public hearings on the draft Plan. These dates are **September 29**, **October 27**, **November 17** and **December 8**. At least one other public hearing date is expected to be added, on a day other than a Monday. That date and time has not yet been determined. Each of the currently scheduled public hearings will be followed by a work session.

On September 16, 2014, the Mayor and Council hosted an open house at City Hall to engage the community in a discussion about the plan. This event included display boards, a short staff presentation, and a question and answer/open discussion session. A short video of the open house event is available to view at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQxilz_o3SU&list=UUcfUJA6KhJVflXr54S9us3Q.

On September 29 and October 27, the Mayor and Council held public hearings, and work sessions on draft plan topics.

Public Notification and Engagement

Strong public involvement has been a major component of the planning process from the beginning and has been central to the development of the June 2014 draft of Rockville's Pike Plan. This process is fully described in Appendix A of the draft Plan. Highlights of the process leading up to release of the June 2014 draft were included in the July 14, 2014 agenda item.

Notice of the November 1 Rockville's Pike Plan tour was sent via the City's listservs, the Rockville Chamber of Commerce, a press release during the week of October 20, and noted on the project website.

Additional information concerning public notification and engagement since the June 2014 draft plan was released can be found in the agenda materials for the October 27, 2014 public hearing.

Boards and Commissions Review

The Planning Commission developed the current draft Plan. The Commission held many work sessions and provided opportunities for public input. The Planning Commission has communicated that it would welcome comments from the Mayor and Council before formally approving and transmitting a recommended plan.

In addition, staff made presentations to a number of boards and commissions in 2011 and in 2013 following release of the two previous drafts and prior to the public hearings on those drafts. The Planning Commission received testimony from many of these boards and commissions. This fall, staff will be presenting the current draft to boards and commissions that wish to receive such presentations.

Next Steps

Upcoming public hearings and work sessions on the draft Plan will be held on November 17 and December 8. The result of the Mayor and Council's consideration of the draft is expected to be a communication to the Planning Commission.

Attachments

Attachment A - Bus-Walking Tour Route.pdf

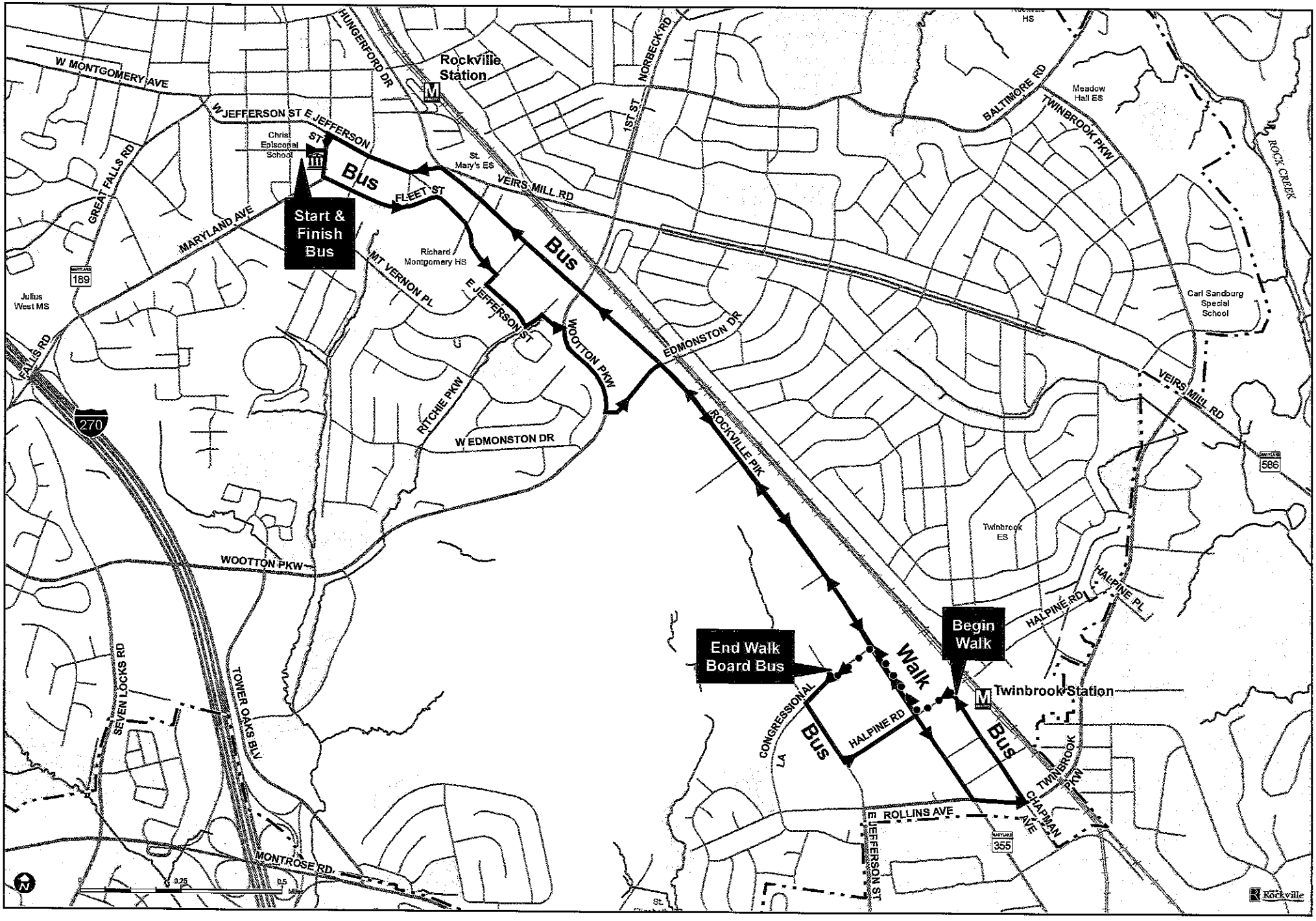
Department Head

Department Head: Susan Swift, Director of Community Planning and Development Services

City Manager

City Manager: Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager
Approval Date:

Rockville Pike Plan Area Bus and Walking Tour

Attachment A

Saturday, November 1, 2014. Bus departs City Hall upper parking lot on Vinson Street at 10:00 a.m.