


## Master Plan of Highways and Transitways Public Hearing

---

 Stephen Aldrich, Master Planner/Supervisor, FP&P, [stephen.aldrich@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:stephen.aldrich@montgomeryplanning.org), 301-495-4528

 Pamela Dunn, Chief, FP&P, [pamela.dunn@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:pamela.dunn@montgomeryplanning.org), 301-650-5649

Completed: 02/22/2018

---

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking Planning Board review and approval of recommended classification changes, with some modifications to those proposed in the Public Hearing Draft of the Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways. This is the first of three planned work sessions.

### INTRODUCTION

A total of three work sessions are currently planned to review the Public Hearing Draft of the Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways with the Planning Board. Planning staff is seeking Planning Board review and comments on 92 proposed classification changes as well as other Master Plan recommendations. The first work session will focus on proposed classification changes in the inner suburbs generally including Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Kensington. The second work session will focus on the eastern side of the county (Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Olney) with the addition of more information on the transitway network. The third work session will focus on the rest of county, the proposed new Urban Road Code areas and consideration of carbon emissions resulting from the MPOHT.

### PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

A public hearing was held on February 15, 2018 to receive public testimony on the Public Hearing Draft of the Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways. Written comments are due on the date of this staff memo (February 22, 2018). As of February 21<sup>st</sup>, a total of 50 written comments (by letter or e-mail) were received by the Chair's office regarding this master plan. We have included comments received both for the Public Hearing Draft and comments received during the Master Plan outreach effort (September 2017 – January 2018). Of these, 27 were opposed to the re-classification of Brookville Road between Western Avenue (DC Line) and East-West Highway from a Primary Residential Street to a Minor Arterial. This classification was not recommended in the Public Hearing Draft document. 17 comments were in favor of a proposed re-classification of Dale Drive from an arterial to a minor arterial, and six individual comments were provided on other locations.

At the public hearing, a total of 14 citizens provided testimony to the Planning Board. This included the following representatives:

- Mayor of the Town of Somerset
- Town of Somerset Ad Hoc Traffic Committee
- Seven Locks Civic Association
- Woodside Park Civic Association
- Dale Drive Safety Coalition
- Coalition for Transportation Alternatives to Mid-County Highway
- Action Committee for Transit
- Seven Oaks-Evanswood Civic Association
- Greater Colesville Citizens Association
- Kenwood Park Citizens Association
- Four private citizens

Written comments as well as the comments received at the public hearing will be addressed during the applicable worksession.

#### **REVIEW OF MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS –PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION CHANGES**

A total of 30 classification changes, primarily downcounty, will be reviewed in the first work session. The exact locations of the proposed re-classifications are summarized below in Table 1 and displayed in Figure 1. While the Master Plan presented these re-classification recommendations by classification type, this worksession will present the information geographically, as the spatial context for the proposed classification change is important to consider. At each worksession, individual classification changes will be discussed with the Planning Board using a dual graphic format to display the current classification and the proposed classification side-by-side.

Before addressing items in Table 1, there are two items worth further discussion and consideration by the Planning Board.

##### **1. Dorset Avenue (ID 37)**

Following the public comment received, staff is open to community concerns raised by the Town of Somerset and the Kenwood Park Citizen’s Association about the proposed re-classification of Dorset Avenue. The Kenwood Park section between Little Falls Parkway and River Road has mature cherry trees and no sidewalks or sidepaths within the existing 60 to 65-foot wide right-of-way. We are not aware of any plans by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to add sidewalks along this section of Dorset Avenue. The Somerset section between Little Falls Parkway and Wisconsin Avenue has a sidewalk on the north side of the street only within a 50 to 55-foot wide right-of-way. While any re-classification does not result per se in any change to the road itself, it does control land dedication in the event of property re-development. A re-classification of this road to Primary Residential would necessitate a right of way dedication only with respect to re-development, requiring one-half of the master planned right of way width (35 feet from the road centerline for a Primary Residential Street). If these streets are to remain predominantly single-family residences, the likelihood of ever assembling

the needed 70-foot wide right of way is doubtful; thus, staff would be open to removing the re-classification of Dorset Avenue.

## 2. Wayne Avenue (ID 115 and ID 116)

Wayne Avenue between Cedar Street and Sligo Creek Parkway is an Arterial street. The section between Sligo Creek Parkway and Flower Avenue is currently classified as a Primary Residential Street. We believe that Wayne Avenue is functionally arterial in nature due to its current use, the lack of parallel routes and the construction of the Purple Line along its right-of-way. It provides a vital link between downtown Silver Spring and the Flower Avenue/Piney Branch area. The Public Hearing Draft recommends re-classifying Wayne Avenue between Sligo Creek Parkway and the Manchester Place Purple Line station (ID 116) from a Primary Residential Street to an Arterial. For Wayne Avenue between Sligo Creek Parkway and Flower Avenue, we offer an option for the Planning Board to consider. Given that a significant percentage of through traffic diverts off Wayne Avenue at Sligo Creek Parkway, an alternative would be to re-classify the section of Wayne between Sligo Creek Parkway and Flower Avenue (ID 115 and ID 116) to a Minor Arterial. This was included as a Future Possible Classification Change in Table 10 on page 44 of the Public Hearing Draft (ID 115). This would maintain the Arterial classification on Wayne Avenue between Cedar Street and Sligo Creek Parkway (Master Planned with 2 traffic lanes and 2 transitway lanes), but it would essentially step down the recommended classification for the remainder of Wayne Avenue to the east of Sligo Creek Parkway. The current recommendation and this alternative are displayed in Figures 2 and 3.

### **SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION CHANGES**

The Future Possible Classification Changes presented in Figures 5 and 6 and in Table 10 of the Public Hearing Draft (pages 39 through 44) are not recommended within this Master Plan. They merit consideration, but it was determined that these candidates might require a more localized review as part of area master or sector plans. Wayne Ave (ID 115), as noted above, is the only exception staff is asking the Planning Board to consider during the first worksession.

### **RIGHT OF WAY CHANGES SUGGESTED BY THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN**

As part of the Bicycle Master Plan work effort, master planned rights-of-ways were reviewed within the county to determine any locations where an increase in the master planned right-of-way would be needed to accommodate the proposed bicycle facility. Master Plan rights-of-way are modified through amendments to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways. For consistency with the review of the Bicycle Master Plan, staff is providing two suggested locations for the Planning Board's consideration to modify the width of the Master Plan Right of Way, as described below:

1. East Ave between Upton Drive and University Blvd in Wheaton: increase right-of-way from 50 feet to 60 feet. This is a case where the existing right-of-way exceeds the master-planned right-of-way.
2. Leland St between Wisconsin Ave and 46<sup>th</sup> St in Bethesda: increase right-of-way from 60 feet to 70 feet. Much of the right-of-way already exists. There is a recommended park on the north side of the street that would need to dedicate a few additional feet.

**Table 1: Classification Recommendations – Worksession 1**

ID	Name	From Location	To Location	Classification	Proposed Classification	Master Plan	Existing Lanes	Planned Lanes	Master Plan ROW (Feet)
3	Alley A (Proposed)	Bonifant St	Thayer St	Business (Planned)	To be removed from MPOH	Silver Spring CBD	N/A	N/A	20
8	Battery Ln	Glenbrook Rd	Old Georgetown Rd	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	80
9	Beach Dr	Garrett Park Rd	Stoneybrook Dr	Park Road	To be removed from MPOH	Kensington-Wheaton / North and West Silver Spring	2	2	70
16	Burdette Rd	Bradley Blvd (MD 191)	River Rd	Principal Secondary	Primary Residential	Bethesda-Chevy Chase	2	2	70
30	Dale Dr	Georgia Ave	Wayne Ave	Arterial	Minor Arterial	North and West Silver Spring	2	2	80
31	Dale Dr	Wayne Ave	Piney Branch Rd	Arterial	Minor Arterial	East Silver Spring	2	2	70
34	Dennis Ave	Georgia Ave	Sligo Creek Pkwy	Arterial	Minor Arterial	Kensington-Wheaton	2	2	80
35	Dennis Ave	Proctor St	University Blvd (MD 193)	Arterial	Minor Arterial	Four Corners	2	2	80
36	Dennis Ave	Sligo Creek Pkwy	Proctor St	Arterial	Minor Arterial	Kemp Mill	2	2	80
37	Dorset Ave	River Rd	Wisconsin Ave	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
51	Glenbrook Rd	Fairfax Rd/Little Falls Pkwy	Old Georgetown Rd	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
58	Greentree Rd	Burdette Rd	I-495 Bridge	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
74	Knowles Ave	Armory Ave	Connecticut Ave	Arterial	To be removed from MPOH	Kensington Sector Plan	2	2	80

ID	Name	From Location	To Location	Classification	Proposed Classification	Master Plan	Existing Lanes	Planned Lanes	Master Plan ROW (Feet)
78	Little Falls Pkwy	Dorset Ave	Massachusetts Ave	Park Road	To be removed from MPOH	Westbard Sector Plan (2016)	2	2	N/A
81	McComas Ave	Douglas Ave	Saint Paul St	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
92	Plyers Mill Rd	Connecticut Ave	Metropolitan Ave	Arterial	Minor Arterial	Kensington Sector Plan	2D	2D	100
93	Plyers Mill Rd	Kensington Town Limit (230' West of Drumm Ave)	Georgia Ave	Arterial	Minor Arterial	Kensington-Wheaton	2	2	80
94	Plyers Mill Rd	Metropolitan Ave	Kensington Town Limit	Arterial	Minor Arterial	Kensington Sector Plan	2	2	80
100	River Rd	Esworthy Rd	Riverwood Dr	Major Highway	Arterial	Potomac	2	2	150
101	River Rd	River Oaks Ln	Falls Rd	Major Highway	Arterial	Potomac	2	2	150
102	River Rd Relocated	Riverwood Dr	River Oaks Ln	Major Highway (Planned)	Arterial (Planned)	Potomac	N/A	2	150
103	Saint Paul St	Plyers Mill Rd	University Blvd	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
105	Seven Locks Rd	MacArthur Blvd	I-495	Principal Secondary	Primary Residential	Bethesda-Chevy Chase	2	2	60
106	Sligo Ave	Approx. 149' east of Fenton St	Piney Branch Rd	Arterial	Minor Arterial	East Silver Spring	2	2	50
107	Sligo Creek Parkway	Glengarry Pl	New Hampshire Ave	Minor Arterial	To be removed from MPOH	Takoma Langley Crossroads Sector Plan	2	2	60

ID	Name	From Location	To Location	Classification	Proposed Classification	Master Plan	Existing Lanes	Planned Lanes	Master Plan ROW (Feet)
116	Wayne Ave	Sligo Creek Pkwy	Manchester Place Station - Purple Line	Primary Residential with planned light rail	Arterial with planned LRT	Purple Line Functional Plan	2	2 + 2T	70
117	Western Ave	Kirkside Dr	Cortland Rd	Major Highway	To be removed from MPOH	Friendship Heights (street owned by DDOT)	4	4	120
123	Whittier Blvd	Wilson Ln	Woodhaven Blvd	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
125	Woodhaven Blvd	Whittier Blvd	Bradley Blvd	N/A	Primary Residential	MPOHT (Pending)	2	2	70
126	Cabin John Pkwy (I-495X)	Capital Beltway (I-495)	Clara Barton Pkwy	Freeway	Parkway	Bethesda-Chevy Chase	4	4D	Varies

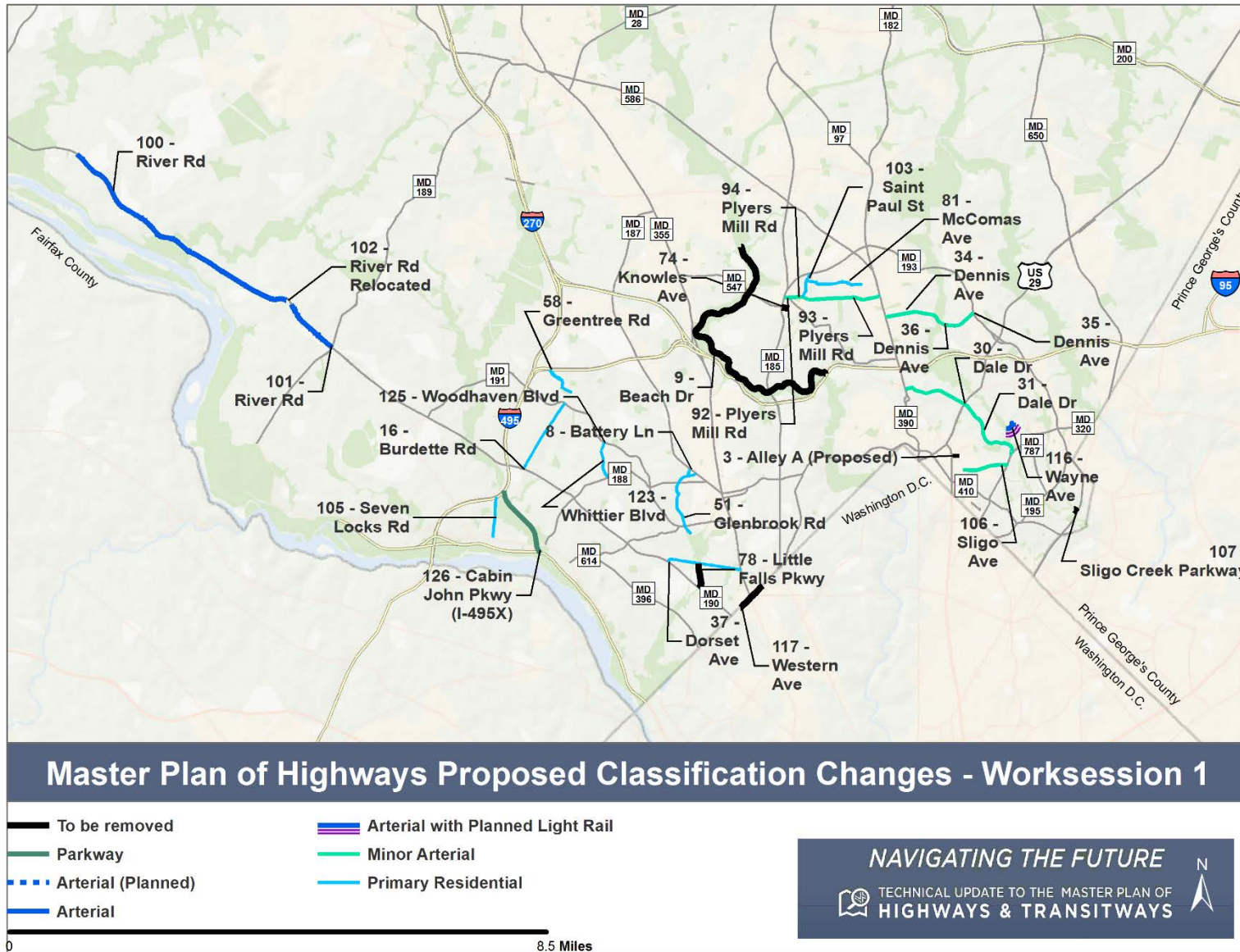


Figure 1: Proposed Classification Changes - Worksession 1



Figure 2: Wayne Avenue – Draft Classification Recommendations - Worksession 1



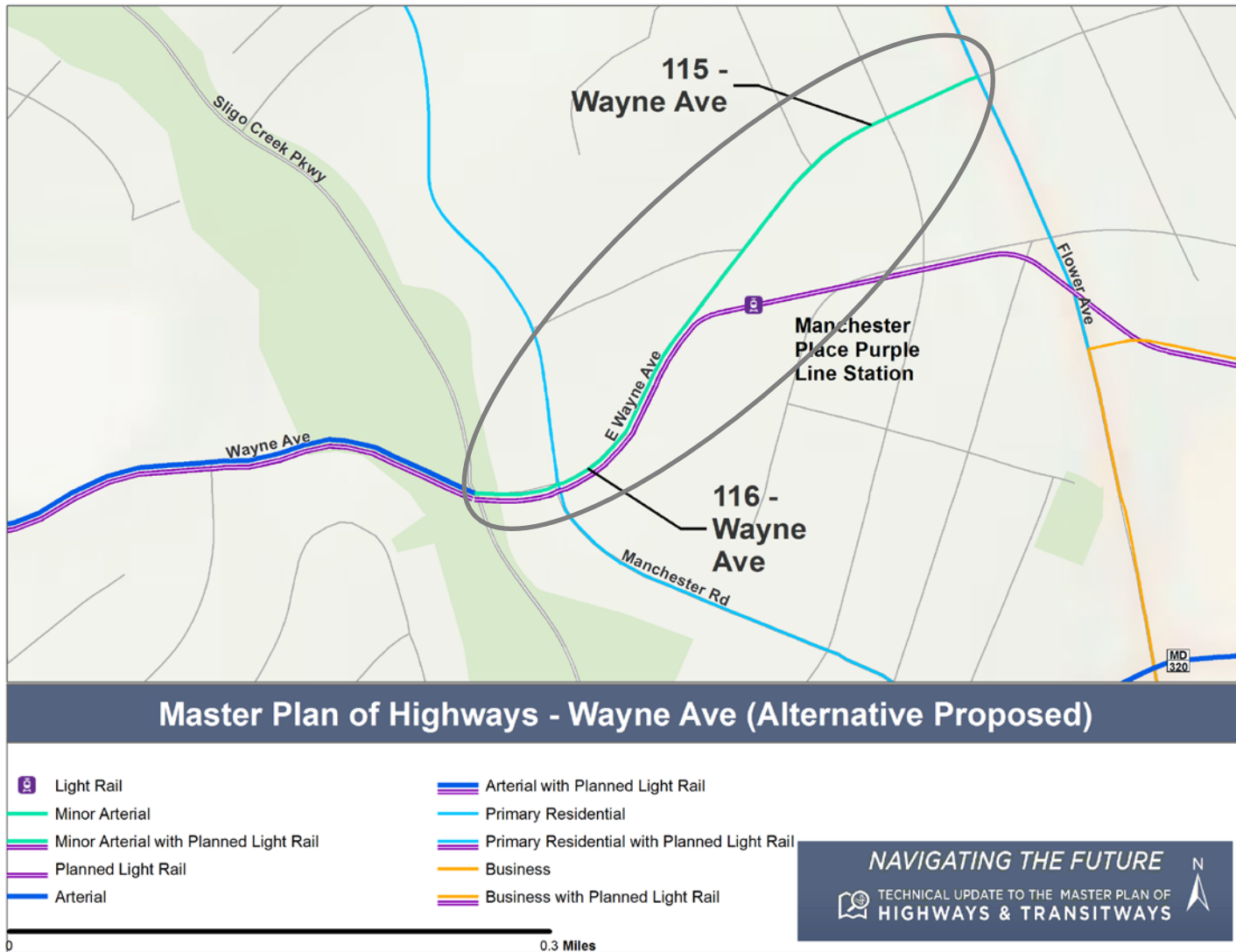


Figure 3: Wayne Avenue – Alternative Classification - Worksession 1