

PARKS – Section 23

Brookmont Elementary School (Western County)

We strongly support the County's continued use of resources to renovate and develop public cultural and recreational facilities that promote a strong sense of community. One such property is the old Brookmont Elementary School that is currently being leased month-to-month by the privately-run Waldorf School. We understand that the County will commence the "re-use" process for this property later this year or early next year. Members of the different communities surrounding the Brookmont Elementary School property, including Sumner, Fort Sumner, Glen-Mar Park, Glen Echo Heights, and Mohican Hills, have joined together to urge that this property be kept in the public domain. In particular, these communities believe that the most desirable public use would be as a renovated public elementary school, particularly given the crowded classrooms in Woodacres Elementary School.

However, assuming that the County does not plan to use the property as a public school, community members surveyed overwhelmingly urge that the County convert this significant public land into a larger "Sangamore Park" under the administration of the M-NCPPC. The old school sits on land adjacent to a small playground and a single ballfield. A larger park, with a second ballfield and other recreational amenities per M-NCPPC's design, and preferably with a small community center adapted from a portion of existing buildings, would serve thousands of residents living between Little Falls Parkway and Goldsboro Road along the Massachusetts Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard corridors. Down-County neighborhoods currently lack sufficient ballfields and playgrounds, and a larger park would provide a needed contribution to the recreational facilities in these neighborhoods, which are currently experiencing substantial growth in their population of school-age children. The Board understands that the re-use process will take 18 months or more and it will defer making any final recommendation during the pendency of the re-use process.

Status: The Board of Education has no immediate plans to reuse this facility; however, the County will retain its current inventory of properties.

Brookside Gardens (Mid-County)

Replace irrigation system at Brookside Gardens.

Project: Brookside Garden

Status: Design is complete, construction is recommended to begin in FY09.

FY05-10 PRIORITIES RECOMMENDED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board has identified new FY05-10 countywide initiatives. These initiatives include general topics that apply to several geographic areas. The priorities identified in this set of recommendations emphasize housing initiatives, pedestrian safety improvements, pedestrian safety improvements, community center projects, and transportation management. Additional specific project priorities have been arranged by seven geographic areas.

GENERAL COUNTYWIDE AREA

Housing Initiatives

CIP funds are needed to provide joint development opportunities for affordable housing projects in Montgomery County. Joint development of selected sites owned at least partially by Montgomery County should receive high priority. Potential joint development sites that will require funds for facility planning to initiate affordable housing projects include:

- Parking Lot 31 in the Bethesda CBD - DPWT
- Maintenance Facilities at the Shady Grove Metro Station - DPWT and MCPS
- Silver Spring Transit Station - DPWT, MTA and WMATA

Status: All of these sites are being investigated for a variety of uses.

In addition to the above sites, the WMATA owns five sites that should be available for joint development including affordable housing. These sites will not require specific funds from the CIP, but they will require substantial staff time from County agencies to implement joint development projects. These sites include:

- Twinbrook Metro Station - WMATA
- Shady Grove Metro Station - WMATA
- Glenmont Metro Station - WMATA
- Wheaton Metro (Surplus Property) - WMATA
- Wheaton Metro Station - WMATA

The Shady Grove Sector Plan, the Gaithersburg Vicinity Master Plan, the Twinbrook Sector Plan, and modifications to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan will be received by the County Council in the next 18 months. Providing opportunities for affordable housing in each of these planning areas through joint development of public land will be a significant recommendation in each of these plans.

Status: The County has, and will continue to be, a partner in seeking opportunities to provide affordable housing thru joint ventures with the private sector and WMATA.

Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Pedestrian safety concerns continue to be emphasized in the work program of the Department of Park and Planning. The CIP should place special emphasis on pedestrian safety including augmenting the sidewalk program and improving the design of intersections. Supplementing the existing sidewalk program is necessary to improve connections to transit and improve pedestrian safety. A general fund for the construction of refuge islands at road intersections, sidewalks, and trails is needed throughout Montgomery County. Priority locations for pedestrian safety improvements include:

- a. Across Georgia Avenue between the Discovery Communications Headquarters and the Downtown Silver Spring project
- b. East West Highway at the Blair Shopping Center near Colesville Road
- c. Across Arlington Road between Old Georgetown Road and Bradley Boulevard
- d. Woodmont Avenue at the intersection of the Capital Crescent Trail in Bethesda
- e. Woodmont Triangle improvements in the Bethesda CBD including crosswalks, sidewalks and lighting for Norfolk Avenue, Del Ray Avenue, Auburn Avenue, Cordell Avenue, Fairmont Avenue and St. Elmo Avenue
- f. Crosswalks and sidewalks along Bradley Boulevard between Barrett Lane and Goldsboro Road
- g. North Bethesda across several intersections with Rockville Pike including the areas near the White Flint, Grosvenor and Twinbrook Metro stations
- h. Access improvements across Democracy Boulevard to Walter Johnson High School
- i. Intersection of Reddie Drive and Veirs Mill Road
- j. Sligo Creek Trail at Forest Glen Road and Dennis Avenue.

Status: These concerns are being addressed through various ongoing DPWT projects as well as the Operating Budget.

Street Tree Program

A general fund is also needed to supplement the existing street tree planting and maintenance program. Street trees are a factor in improving the character of pedestrian walkways and roadways in Montgomery County. A general fund would reinforce the regulatory standards required by the private sector, and supplement the existing Montgomery County program.

Status: Due to fiscal constraints, funding is not recommended.

Community Center Projects

Improvement of several community centers to serve the recreation needs of our existing communities should also receive high priority. A general fund is needed for facility

planning for community centers. This fund would be used to recommend sites, establish joint development options, identify costs, and set priorities for the next series of community centers to be funded in Montgomery County. Priority projects include:

- a. Scotland Community Center in Potomac: continued facility planning and construction funds
- b. Friendship Heights Community Center: operational funding needed for the future center
- c. Brookmont Elementary School: this former school site should be incorporated into Sangamore Local Park if the existing lease is not renewed
- d. North Bethesda Community Center: facility planning and construction funds
- e. Wheaton Community Center: facility planning, site assessment and construction funds are needed.

Project: Facility Planning: MCG

North Bethesda Community Recreation Center

Status: The Scotland Community Center is recommended for a Neighborhood Centers Engineering Study. Operational funding for the Friendship Heights Community Center will be evaluated in the Operating Budget. Conceptual planning for the incorporation of Brookmont Elementary School into Sangamore Local Park is not programmed. Conceptual planning for the Wheaton Community Center sub-project is recommended for facility planning study. The North Bethesda Community Recreation Center is scheduled for design in FY10.

Transportation Management

A general fund for transportation management is needed to address traffic concerns in the major employment centers. Providing an option to the single occupant vehicle is the primary goal of transportation management. Creating highly efficient transportation management systems to help address traffic concerns is crucial to the long-term success of our major employment centers. This goal is partially implemented by the private sector through the regulatory process. As an example, all of the recently approved projects in Friendship Heights are required to establish rigorous transportation management programs. Funding for transportation management to augment the efforts of the private sector is needed throughout Montgomery County. The major employment centers in Silver Spring, Friendship Heights, Bethesda, North Bethesda, and Shady Grove represent some of the priority areas for transportation management.

Project: Operating Budget and PSP
Multiple CIP Projects

Status: Work is ongoing to encourage transportation modes other than the single occupancy vehicle.

SILVER SPRING/TAKOMA PARK AREA

Silver Spring CBD Ripley District Road Improvements

This project would fund and implement the extension of Ripley Street and Dixon Avenue in the Ripley District. These improvements are intended to improve access to the future transit center, support redevelopment in the Ripley District, and facilitate important bikeway improvements.

Project: Facility Planning: Transportation

Status: Facility planning for these improvements is programmed.

Capital Crescent and Metropolitan Trails

This regional trail serves pedestrians and bicyclists. It is both a transportation and recreation facility. Funds have already been allocated for facility planning. Construction funds should also be allocated.

Status: Facility planning is programmed in FY08. Construction funding will be considered when facility planning is complete.

Seminary Road/ Seminary Place/ Linden Lane/ Brookville Road/ Second Avenue Intersection Improvements

The concept for the needed safety improvements is shown on page 57 of the North and West Silver Spring Master Plan.

Status: Due to fiscal constraints, funding is not recommended.

Sixteenth Street Sidewalk, from Spring Street to Lyttonsville Road (west side)

The west side of this segment of Sixteenth Street is located adjacent to the Summit Hills apartments, the Suburban Tower apartments, and the Park Sutton condominiums. A crosswalk was recently installed to facilitate pedestrian movement between the Suburban Tower apartments on the west side of Sixteenth Street and the bus stop on the east side immediately south of the bridge over the CSX tracks. This recommendation would provide a needed sidewalk to improve safety and accessibility for residents. Because a steep slope is located behind the curb along the west side of Sixteenth Street, a facility planning study should be completed before programming construction. Construction would be funded (75%) by the State.

Status: A facility planning study will be considered in the FY07-12 timeframe.

East West Highway Sidewalk

The sidewalk along the south side of East West Highway should be extended to provide a pedestrian connection between the residents of the Rock Creek Gardens and the high-rise condominiums, and the apartments centered around the Sixteenth Street/East West Highway intersection, the Blair Shopping Center, Silver Spring Metro and Silver Spring CBD. The length of sidewalk required would be approximately 1,500 feet. A modification to the existing East West Highway Bridge over a tributary to Rock Creek would be required. As noted above, construction would presumably be funded (75%) by the State.

Status: Funding will be recommended for design and construction of sidewalk, once the State has completed bridge construction.

East West Highway Bridge Over Rock Creek

This location is the crossing of the highway serving the two major down county urban centers, Silver Spring and Bethesda, and our major down county park, Rock Creek Park, but the bridge is very shabby in comparison to the District of Columbia bridges over Rock Creek. The standard concrete highway bridge parapets should be redesigned, ornamental lighting installed, and monumental end posts constructed to reflect this bridge's important location in Rock Creek Park and its function as the gateway to the greater Silver Spring and Bethesda communities. The construction could potentially be funded as a transportation enhancement project, with half the cost paid by the State.

Status: This bridge is maintained by the State Highway Administration.

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE/ NORTH BETHESDA AREA

North Bethesda Transportation Improvements

The following projects identified in the North Bethesda Master Plan are needed to improve transportation capacity in the North Bethesda area:

- a. Citadel/Chapman Avenue: Facility planning funds are needed to complete the extension of this road from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road. This extension is a critical feature of the transportation network for the North Bethesda area. This road will parallel Rockville Pike.
- b. Nebel Street: Facility planning for this street has already started. Additional funds should be provided for construction of this four-lane business district street parallel to Rockville Pike.
- c. Eastern Portion of Montrose Parkway: Facility Planning funds are needed to provide an appropriate design for the eastern portion of Montrose Parkway. This project would provide critical coordination with

the western portion of Montrose Parkway presently under facility planning by the State Highway Administration and Montgomery County.

- d. Intersection of MD 355 and Tuckerman Lane: Although this intersection meets the congestion standard, some vehicles experience long delays during turning movements. This intersection will also receive additional traffic from the Strathmore Concert Hall, Georgetown Prep/Inigo's Crossing, the WMATA Parking Garage at Grosvenor, and the additional housing development at Grosvenor.
- e. Intersection of MD 355 and Nicholson Lane: This intersection is near the established congestion standard. The North Bethesda area will need this project as future development including White Flint Place is proposed.

The general funds for transportation management and pedestrian safety improvements along Rockville Pike should also be considered as a priority. All of these projects should be examined in a coordinated manner to determine the appropriate construction timing and priorities.

- a. Project: Citadel Avenue
Status: Final design is in progress. Construction programmed to commence in FY05.
- b. Project: Nebel Street Extended
Status: Final design plans anticipated to be complete FY04-05. Funding for construction is recommended in the FY05-10 timeframe.
- c. Project: Eastern Portion of Montrose Parkway
Status: Facility planning is ongoing.
- d. Project: MD 355 and Tuckerman Lane Intersection
Status: Facility planning is ongoing.
- f. Project: MD 355 and Nicholson Lane Intersection
Status: Facility planning is ongoing.

Woodglen Avenue Extended

Facility planning funds are needed to extend this road from Nicholson Lane to Marinelli Road. This road will support the development of the Montgomery County Conference Center and other development parallel to Rockville Pike. This road is a network component to serve local traffic.

Project: Facility Planning: Transportation

Status: Facility planning is complete.

Friendship Heights Community Center

This community center will be constructed primarily by New England Development as part of the approval of Friendship Place. Funds may be needed to support limited construction and operation of this proposed community center. The priority for this project should be compared with the countywide needs for other community centers in Montgomery County.

Status: Planning for this community center is not programmed.

Brookmont Elementary School

This former school site should be incorporated into Sangamore Local Park if the existing lease is not renewed. Funds for facility planning are needed to determine if the existing school could be used for recreation or other community needs.

Status: Planning for the incorporation of Brookmont Elementary School into Sangamore Local Park is not programmed.

North Bethesda Community Center

Funds for facility planning and construction are needed for this project. The applicant for development in this area will dedicate the site, as part of a coordinated development with Montgomery County.

Project: North Bethesda Community Recreation Center

Status: A senior center is added to the facility. Design is programmed to begin in FY09.

North Bethesda Trail

While the current project for the North Bethesda Trail was supposed to complete the trail, with two small exceptions, the recent security changes at NIH require a reassessment. Much of the trail alignment between West Cedar Lane and the Bethesda Metro Station was through the NIH campus, public travel through which is now prohibited. Funds for facility planning are needed to determine how bike traffic can best be accommodated between these two points outside the campus.

Project: Facility Planning: Transportation

Status: Facility planning to begin in FY08.

I-270 CORRIDOR AREA

Completion of Locbury Drive through the Town Center in Germantown

Completion of the approximately 900-foot long segment of Locbury Drive needs to be planned between Town Commons Drive and Falling Water Circle including a bridge over a stream in the Germantown Town Center.

Project: Facility Planning: Transportation

Status: The project will begin facility planning in the next CIP cycle.

Observation Drive (A-19)

The missing link between Germantown and Clarksburg Town Center needs to be planned to ensure coordination with the Corridor Cities Transitway and to facilitate developer participation.

Project: Facility Planning: Transportation

Status: Funding for facility planning is recommended in the FY05-10 timeframe.

Completion of Main Street (Century Boulevard) through the Germantown Town Center

Facility planning for the public library and park parcel in the Germantown Town Center is proceeding. A short segment of this business district street (approximately 400 feet in length) is incomplete. The road completion project should proceed independent of library design and construction in order to unify the Town Center and assure the circulation pattern intended by the Germantown Master Plan.

Project: Public Facilities Road

Status: Construction began in FY04.

Father Hurley Bridge Over Railroad Tracks

This project is needed to span the existing CSX/MARC railroad tracks via Father Hurley Boulevard (unconstructed) between Wisteria Drive and Dawson Farm Road. Development projects (approved) to the east of the railroad and west of the railroad (planned) are responsible for dedication and construction of multiple travel lanes with pedestrian facilities and landscaping. The bridge connection is not included as developer improvements, thereby creating a non-contiguous roadway.

Project: Father Hurley Boulevard Extended

Status: Design is recommended to begin in FY05.

Stringtown Road Between MD 355 and I-270

The Clarksburg Master Plan calls for an extension of the existing Stringtown Road to provide an important connection to I-270. Due to the amount of approved development in Clarksburg, the roadway needs to be funded for construction in the next five years in order to relieve congestion along MD 355 and provide a more direct access to I-270.

Project: Stringtown Road

Status: Final design is in progress. Land acquisition is recommended for FY05.

Watkins Mill Traffic Calming Measures

This traffic calming project will reduce the travel speed of vehicles along Watkins Mill Road. This project is required by the County Council before construction of a new interchange at I-270 and Watkins Mill Road Extended.

Status: The I-270 Interchange and the Watkins Mill Road Extended are not presently scheduled within the State's Comprehensive Transportation Program or the CIP program.

Trail Connection Across the Hondros Property to Germantown Park

Funds are needed to connect the existing sidewalk/bike path along MD 118 through the Hondros property.

Project: Annual Sidewalk Program

Status: Funding is recommended for design and construction in the FY07-12 timeframe.

POTOMAC AREA

Scotland Community Center

The existing Scotland Community Center was constructed in the mid 1970's. The present facility is undersized and inadequate for the diverse social and recreational needs of the area. Expansion is needed. This project should be examined with the other recommended community centers, and the priorities established.

Project: Facility Planning: MCG

Status: The Scotland Community Center is recommended for a Neighborhood Centers Engineering Study.

GEORGIA AVENUE AREA

Infrastructure for Bus Service

Facility planning funds for bus priority treatments including bus shelters and sidewalk connections along Veirs Mill Road and University Boulevard are needed.

Project: Facility Planning: Transportation

Status: The Veirs Mill Bus Rapid Transit study will begin in FY05. The University Blvd. Rapid Transit study will begin in FY07.

Summit Avenue and Plyers Mill Road Intersection Improvements

This project provides curbs and sidewalks along Summit Avenue and Plyers Mill Road. These improvements will help these roads to serve as a relief for a congested portion of Connecticut Avenue.

Status: Knowles Avenue (MD 547) and Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) are State Roads. The improvements need to be coordinated by the Town of Kensington and the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Wheaton Community Center

The Wheaton Community Center is another public facility that needs improvement. A major renovation of this facility is needed. A potential for joint development on the site of the existing Good Counsel High School should be explored. The cost to design, acquire the site, and renovate a portion of the existing Good Counsel High School should be compared with the cost to renovate the existing Wheaton Community Center. This center should be examined with the Friendship Heights, North Bethesda and Scotland Community Centers to establish priorities.

Project: Facility Planning: MCG

Status: The Wheaton Community Center is recommended for facility planning.

Facility Planning for Emory Lane

Facility planning should begin for Emory Lane between Muncaster Mill Road and Cashell Road. Reconstruction is needed to improve this substandard roadway with poor sight distance at the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

Status: The State Highway Administration (SHA) has completed work at the intersection which has improved its efficiency and safety. SHA is currently working on Muncaster Mill Road.

Bikeways

The following bikeways are needed in the Georgia Avenue area:

- a. Needwood Road: An off-road bike trail is needed along the south side of Needwood Road from Muncaster Mill Road to the entrance to Rock Creek Park.
- b. Layhill Road: An off-road bike path is needed along the east side of Layhill Road from Norbeck Road to Ednor Road.
- c. Forest Glenn Road: An off-road bike trail is needed along the south side of Forest Glen Road from Georgia Avenue to the Sligo Creek Trail including a median pedestrian/bike refuge for Sligo Creek Trail on Forest Glen Road.
- d. Connecticut Avenue: An off-road bike trail is needed along the east side of Connecticut Avenue from Bel Pre Road to Georgia Avenue.

Project: Annual Bikeway Program

Status: The four bikeway projects will be considered for construction in the Annual Bikeway Program.

EASTERN COUNTY AREA

Burtonsville Local Access Road

This project would construct a local access road north and parallel to MD Route 198. This road would be located between the access road to the Burtonsville Elementary School, and the Burtonsville Shopping Center. This road would provide an important alternative access for existing businesses located north of MD Route 198.

Project: Burtonsville Access Road

Status: This new project will provide a new roadway between Spencerville Road (MD 198) and the school access road in Burtonsville.

RURAL AREA

The present Capital Improvements Program includes the necessary projects for this area.