



Master Plan of Highways and Transitways – Update on Work Effort and Schedule



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Introduction

This is the first major revision to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways (MPOHT) since 1955. The goal of this effort is to produce a comprehensive plan containing updated information on the County’s existing and master planned transportation network. This includes changes to roadway classifications made by area master plans and sector plans since the last update, modifications necessitated by the Council adoption of the Montgomery County Road Code, as well as a handful of corrections. In addition to updating the Master Plan, this effort will significantly improve the visualization of Master Plan recommendations, including a user’s guide, a Countywide highway and transitways map, and localized mapbooks to provide more detailed zoom-ins showing existing facilities and master planned improvements to area highways and transitways.

Master Plan of Highways and Transitways – Amendment Process

The most recent Master Plan of Highways was approved by M-NCPPC in 1955. Transportation recommendations made in other functional master plans, area master plans or sector plans, and any master plan amendments modify the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways on an incremental basis. As such, this functional master plan is an evolving document. The positive side of this is that transportation needs are addressed on a local level as part of the Master Planning process. The negative side is that the ability to keep the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways current on a timely basis is a challenge; however, as part of this update staff will be proposing a regular schedule of annual or biennial updates moving forward.

Scope of Work - 2014

The scope of work for this project was approved in 2014. A link to the approved scope of work is provided below.

http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2014/documents/MPOHTPlanningBoard11.20.2014_000.pdf.

The project was put on hold in 2015, partially to align this update more strategically with the Bicycle Master Plan project to ensure that right of way and roadway classification changes are consistent with bicycle recommendations. In brief, the project involves the following efforts:

- Provide a guidance document to explain the purpose, goals, objectives, and study process for the development of recommendations for the master-planned highway rights of way, road improvements, and transitway improvements.
- Update the MPOHT to be consistent with the 2007 (Context-Sensitive Design Standards) and 2013 (Complete Streets) updates to the Montgomery County Road Code. This includes potential changes

using newer road classification categories not available in earlier master plans, including Controlled Major Highways, Minor Arterials, and Parkways. It also includes the restriction of target speeds in all Urban Road Code areas to 25 miles per hour for all county roadways.

- Update the MPOHT to eliminate inconsistencies between adjacent Master Plans adopted at different dates.
- Significantly improve the ease of use of the MPOHT to the public through improvements to the MPOHT maps with improved map products (overall Countywide map, and mapbooks with zoomed-in views of the County including all Urban Road Code areas), and an improved web application (using an improved MCATLAS link) to allow interactive data searches with other M-NCPPC datasets, including street addresses, road code boundaries, bicycle-pedestrian priority areas, and environmental features.
- Improve the functionality of the MPOHT as a main source of information regarding highways and transitways in Montgomery County, including a running list of amendments from approved Master Plans that are not shown in the MPOHT document and maps, and
- Develop a regular update process to modify the MPOHT maps on an annual or biennial basis to keep the Master Plan current. This would require an update to the Board and the County Council on the adopted changes included since the last update.

Schedule

The project schedule for the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways is shown on the attached graphic. The project will include modifications to the MPOHT website, public outreach meetings in September and October, 2017, with the presentation of working draft recommendations to the Planning Board starting in November 2017.

Master Plan of Highways and Transitways Proposed Schedule

Work Efforts	2017												2018									
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Technical Work - Staff																						
Technical Review - M-NCPPC	■	■	■	■	■																	
GIS Corrections	■	■	■	■	■	■																
GIS Mapbook				■	■	■																
Regional Meetings (4-5)									■	■												
Analysis and Draft Plan																						
Working Draft Recommendations							■	■	■													
Analysis and Working Draft Report								■	■	■												
Planning Board Review																						
Working Draft to Planning Board										■	■											
Work Sessions to Create Public Hearing Draft										■	■	■										
Public Hearing										■	■	■										
Worksessions										■	■	■										
Planning Board Draft										■	■	■										
Council Executive / Council Review																						
Executive Review															■	■						
Public Hearing															■	■	■					
Worksessions															■	■	■	■	■			
Approval																			■	■	■	

