



2021 Local Area Transportation Review Guidelines



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Description

The Montgomery County Council adopted the 2020-2024 Growth and Infrastructure Policy (GIP) on November 16, 2020. The Council's actions warranted an update of the guidelines used in support of the administration of the transportation-related elements of the GIP. The new guidelines (provided as an attachment) refine the context-sensitive and multi-modal transportation analysis methods reflected in the *2017 Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) Guidelines*. In addition, the guidelines contain many new ideas that emphasize the desire to better reflect the County's multi-modal and Vision Zero-related goals and objectives in the context of the evaluation of local transportation system performance for subdivision applications. Key changes reflected in the updated document include:

- Prioritize motor vehicle mitigation strategies designed to improve travel safety.
- Require a Vision Zero Statement for all projects estimated to generate 50 or more net new weekday peak-hour person trips.
- Introduce the application of a Pedestrian Level of Comfort (PLOC) measure to evaluate pedestrian system adequacy.
- Eliminate the motor vehicle adequacy test in Red Policy Areas (Metrorail Station Policy Areas and Purple Line Station Areas), where multimodal transportation options are more prevalent.
- Exempt bioscience facilities, for the next four years, from all LATR tests to provide faster approval of facilities that support biological research and development or the manufacturing of related products and provide significant employment opportunities in the county.
- Update the scoping and mitigation requirements for developer-funded bikeways, sidewalks and bus shelters to be more robust to evaluate adequacy.

Earlier this year, Planning Department and MCDOT staff were solicited for commentary and suggested revisions pertaining to the updated draft *Guidelines*. Much of this feedback is reflected in the attached document.

The changes reflected in the updated *Guidelines* described above will be the focus of the discussion of this item with the Planning Board on July 1st. In addition, subsequent to the release of the updated draft *Guidelines* on June 10, 2021, Planning staff has identified several minor revisions and/or clarifications

that are proposed to be incorporated into the document. These include language explaining requirements for conducting the pedestrian and bicycle traffic counts. The Board will be briefed on these changes, as well.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Planning Board adopt these guidelines allowing additional minor editing and clarifications as necessary.

Attachment - 2021 Local Area Transportation Review Guidelines

EG/JS/aj