

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

February 3, 2009

Honorable Isiah Leggett  
County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

As the September 2011 opening of the newly-designated Walter Reed National Military Medical Center draws rapidly closer, we would like to focus your attention, and the attention of other decision-makers, on the urgent need to prepare this area for the near future while keeping in mind the broader issue of long-term “livability” in the neighborhoods and the long-term vision for the area surrounding the Medical Center. Failure to address the significant traffic impacts of BRAC will result in gridlock that will disrupt the community and compromise the BRAC mission establishing in Bethesda the flagship center of care and treatment for America’s active, wounded and retired military personnel and their families.

The adjacent campuses of NNMC, NIH, and Suburban Hospital in Bethesda provide Montgomery County with unique opportunities and challenges. This world-class medical complex brings much prestige to the county; however, it requires the county’s leadership to promote cooperation and coordination among these institutions and all levels of government to spearhead essential infrastructure improvements required to ensure mobility and sustainability in the area.

Attached is a matrix of mobility improvements that have been supported by the BRAC Implementation Committee and, we believe, by you and your staff. We urge your expeditious review and support of these mobility projects. Moving forward, particularly during budget preparations, we ask all government officials at all levels to keep in mind this vision of mobility, and the specific projects needed to implement the overall and continued vision of our community.

Area stakeholders have worked hard to maintain their quality of life that is embodied in the goals and objectives of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan. We are hopeful that the goals of the entire community will be met and a long-term vision for this vital area implemented through immediate and collective leadership of elected officials at

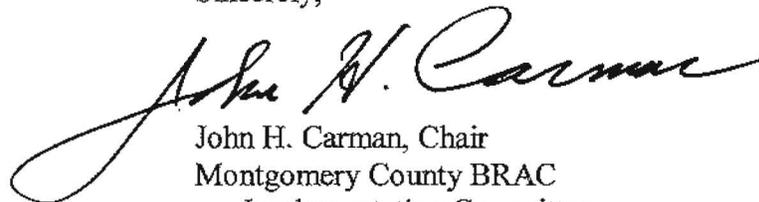
the local, state and federal levels. These are the goals and objective of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan:

- Perpetuate and enhance the high quality of life which exists in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Planning Area.
- Achieve a level of future employment development that is in balance with a high quality of life and the transportation capacity of the Planning Area.
- Provide for a balanced housing supply so that persons of varying income levels, age, backgrounds, and household characteristics may find suitable housing appropriate to their needs.
- Protect the high quality residential communities throughout the Planning Area, as well as the services and environmental qualities that enhance the area.
- Achieve a significant shift of new travel from auto use to transit and other mobility alternatives.
- Protect natural resources and environmental qualities of the Planning Area.
- Contribute to a strong sense of community and help reinforce community cohesion.

Again, thank you for giving the Committee the opportunity to share its recommendations with you. We are hopeful, through immediate and collective leadership of elected officials at the local, state and federal levels that the goals of the entire community will be met and a long-term vision for this vital area implemented.

We appreciate your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,



John H. Carman, Chair  
Montgomery County BRAC  
Implementation Committee

Enc: BRAC Transportation Projects Matrix

BRAC TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS MATRIX (WORK IN PROGRESS, AS OF 1-27-09)

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PRIMARY AGENCY</u>	<u>OTHER AGENCIES</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TARGET COMPLETION</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>CURRENT FUNDING</u>
<b><u>ON-CAMPUS PROJECTS</u></b>							
1. <b>NNMC On-Base Traffic Projects</b>	Road and gate improvements to help off-campus traffic flow	Navy	n/a	In Master Plan	Sept. 2011	n/a	in MilCon budget
2. <b>North Wood Road Turn Lane</b>	Improve traffic flow on MD 355 at north gate	Navy	MDOT/SHA	In Master Plan	Sept. 2011	\$1-2 million	in MilCon budget
3. <b>2-3 New NNMC Garages</b>	Additional parking for personnel and patients	Navy	n/a	one garage in planning phase	Sept. 2011	n/a	two in MilCon budget
4. <b>NNMC TMP</b>	Incentives for alternate Modes of transportation	Navy	n/a	in Master Plan	Sept. 2011	n/a	funded
<b><u>OFF-CAMPUS PROJECTS</u></b>							
5. <b>East-side Metro Entrance/ Pedestrian Tunnel</b>	Increase transit use; pedestrian safety	WMATA	MDOT/MTA MoCo DOT	feasibility study underway		>\$30 million?	DAR-Defense Access Road request pending
6. <b>Improve Major Intersections:</b>	Improve traffic flow at main intersections serving NNMC	MDOT/SHA	n/a	D&E in progress; Public input spring 2009	Sept. 2011	>\$45.3 million	\$45.3 million
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Lane @ MD 355</li> <li>• Cedar Lane @ MD 187</li> <li>• Jones Bridge Road @ MD 185</li> <li>• Jones Bridge Road @ MD 355</li> </ul>						

7. <b>Pedestrian/Bike Paths</b>	Improve and complete paths around NNMC	MoCo DOT	MDOT/SHA	Facility study grant requested	Sept. 2011	?	OEA grant request pending
8. <b>RideOn Enhanced Shuttle Buses</b>	Expand bus and depot capacity for more shuttle service	MoCo DOT	MDOT/MTA	depot in County budget	Sept. 2011	\$5.3 million	possible State LOTS funds
9. <b>Kiss &amp; Ride drop-offs</b>	BIC proposed near gates at MD 355 & JBR	Navy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10. <b>Coordinate w/NIH Shuttle Bus Service</b>	Cost-effective way to promote transit	Navy/NIH	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11. <b>Beltway Ramp Study</b>	Determine feasibility of constructing direct I-495 access to NNMC	MDOT/SHA	n/a	SHA has determined not feasible	n/a	n/a	n/a

**NOTES:**

1. On-base traffic mitigations are detailed in master Plan Update, submitted to NCPC November 7, 2008.
2. Navy has committed to making North Wood turn lane improvements in conjunction with improvements at North Wood Gate.
3. Third proposed garage has not yet been budgeted.
4. TMP detailed in Master Plan Update, submitted to NCPC November 7, 2008.
5. Defense Access Road request pending at DOD. WMATA conducting feasibility study for MDOT/MTA; ultimate responsibility for project not yet determined. Four proposals under consideration include: Elevators to mid-level pedestrian tunnel that connects to west-side entrance; Deep tunnels to Metro platform; pedestrian overpass across MD 355; and a no-build option that provides for pedestrian safety enhancements (signage, signaling, etc.)
6. \$45.3 million has been programmed through Sept. 2011, but \$15.9 million in out-year construction funding has been deferred. Current funding includes \$1.97 million congressional earmark. Public hearings, 2009. Actual construction work TBD; D&E to determine whether mitigation construction is feasible at all sites.
7. BRAC Implementation Committee helped develop improvement plan. MoCo DOT grant request for Facility Study pending with DOD Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA).
8. North County Depot is in County budget, but state or federal funds will be needed to acquire additional buses for shuttle service.
9. BRAC Implementation Committee has proposed Navy add Kiss and Ride drop-offs near its gates along MD 355 and Jones Bridger Road. These drop-offs would facilitate traffic flow along those roads.
10. BIC has proposed that NNMC work with NIH to coordinate shuttle bus needs.
11. SHA has issued white paper detailing why a Beltway ramp to NNMC is not feasible.