

# Montgomery County Fire & Rescue

Fire Department Apparatus Access

Why is it important?  
What does it mean to the community?

# Current FD Environment

- Residential structures are now made using lightweight, highly combustible construction and construction materials
- Development trends are moving away from adequate fire department access
- Response time is critical to effective emergency mitigation
- Apparatus size is influenced by USDOT, OSHA and service demands
- Fire Laws of Maryland

# What We Are Building



Building height, square footage, and proximity is a concern:  
requires additional fire department resources

Light weight construction is the prevailing method

March 10, 2006

Clarksburg: Tall Poplar Rd (400SF) -  
7 minutes 12 seconds from time of first 911 call to  
arrival of first unit





**Fire Penetration**

**24ft**

- Fire apparatus could not get within 200 ft due to turning radius and parked vehicles.
- Extensive damage, fire migration, and collateral damage to 8 neighboring structures.

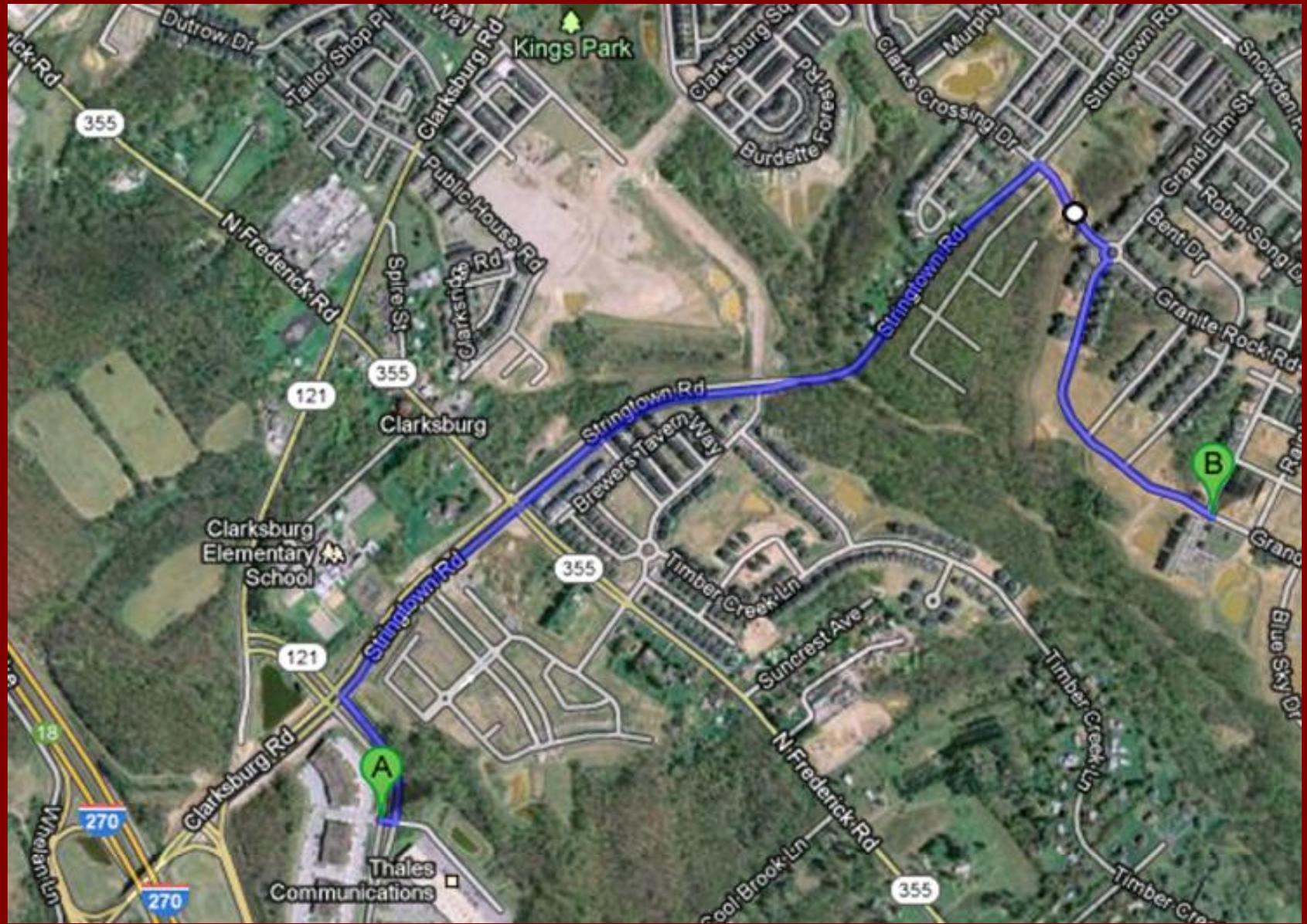
May 28, 2008

Loudon (3,704SF) – 16 minutes from initial 911 call to full involvement



April 28, 2012

Robin Song Terrace – 1.6 miles from FS35



April 28, 2012  
Robin Song Terrace  
Recorded 3 min 30 sec response time



April 28, 2012  
Robin Song Terrace  
Recorded 3 min 30 sec response time



- Documented vehicle obstructions  
Reported pedestrian obstructions

# Response Time

- Average time for units to arrive on scene in Montgomery County after the first 911 call is 9.4 minutes.

# Applicable Code

- Fire Laws of Maryland (2004 edition)
  - Public Safety Article 6-206 Regulations (d) (1) "The State Fire Prevention Code establishes the minimum requirements to protect life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion"
- The State of Maryland adopted NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code (2006 edition)
  - 18.2.3.1.1 Approved fire department access roads shall be provided for every facility, building, or portion of a building hereafter constructed or relocated
  - 18.2.3.4.1.1 Fire department access roads shall have an **unobstructed** width of not less than 20 ft

# Apparatus

- Engine Company
  - Operating footprint is 18 ft wide by the length of the vehicle (approximately 35 ft) plus 8 ft
- Truck Company
  - Operating footprint is 19.5 ft wide by the length of the vehicle (47 ft – 59.5 ft) plus 8 ft

# Operating Width



# Operating Width



No room to operate with a full parking load

20 ft

# Clarksburg Village

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- Affected streets:

Bent Arrow Drive

British Manor Drive

Blue Sky Drive

Grand Elm Street

Rainbow Arch Drive

Granite Rock Road

Robin Song Drive

Piedmont Road

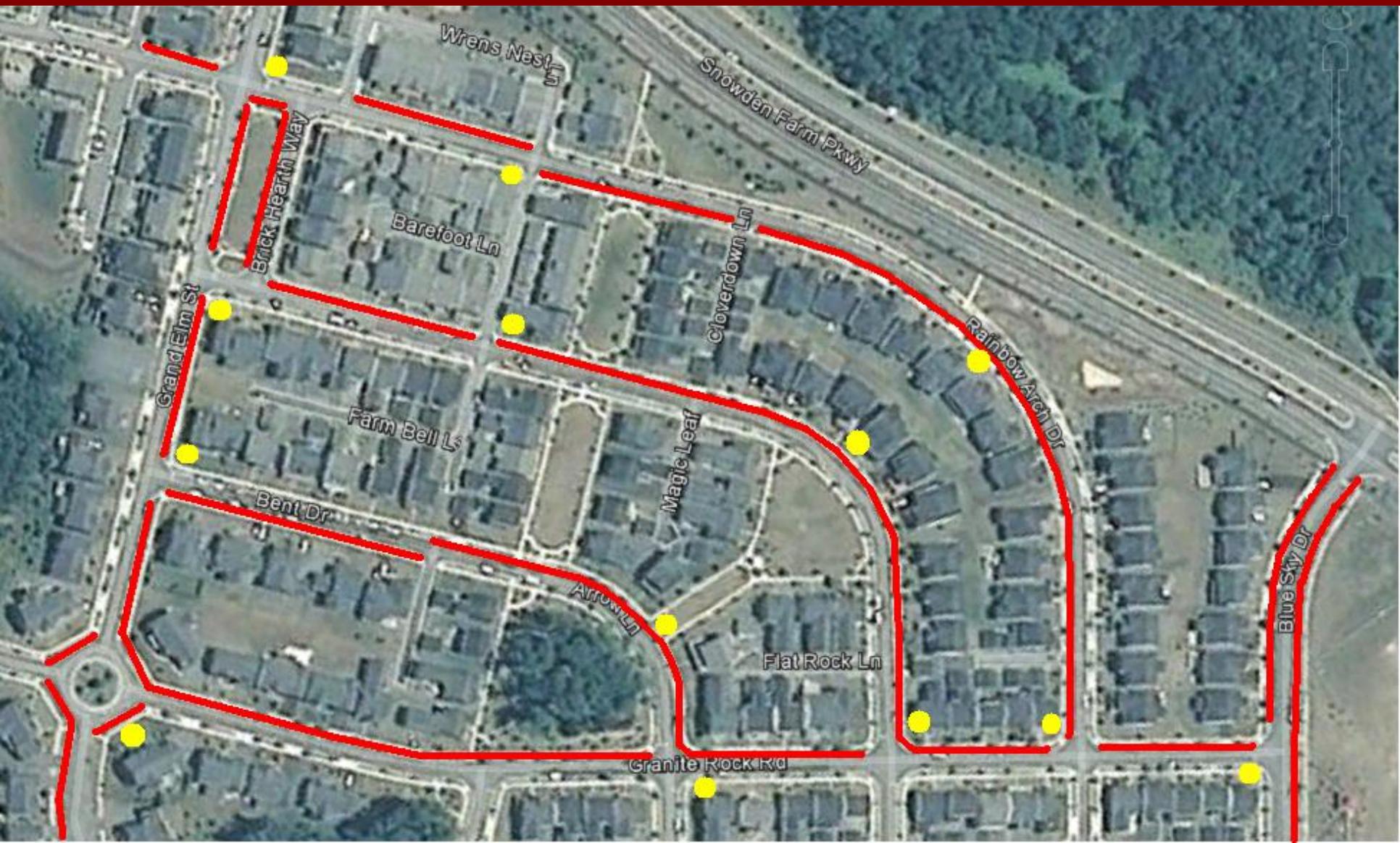
Sycamore Farm Road

- More streets will be restricted as development continues and need is identified

- Brick Hearth
- Grand Elm
- Rainbow Arch

- Robin Song

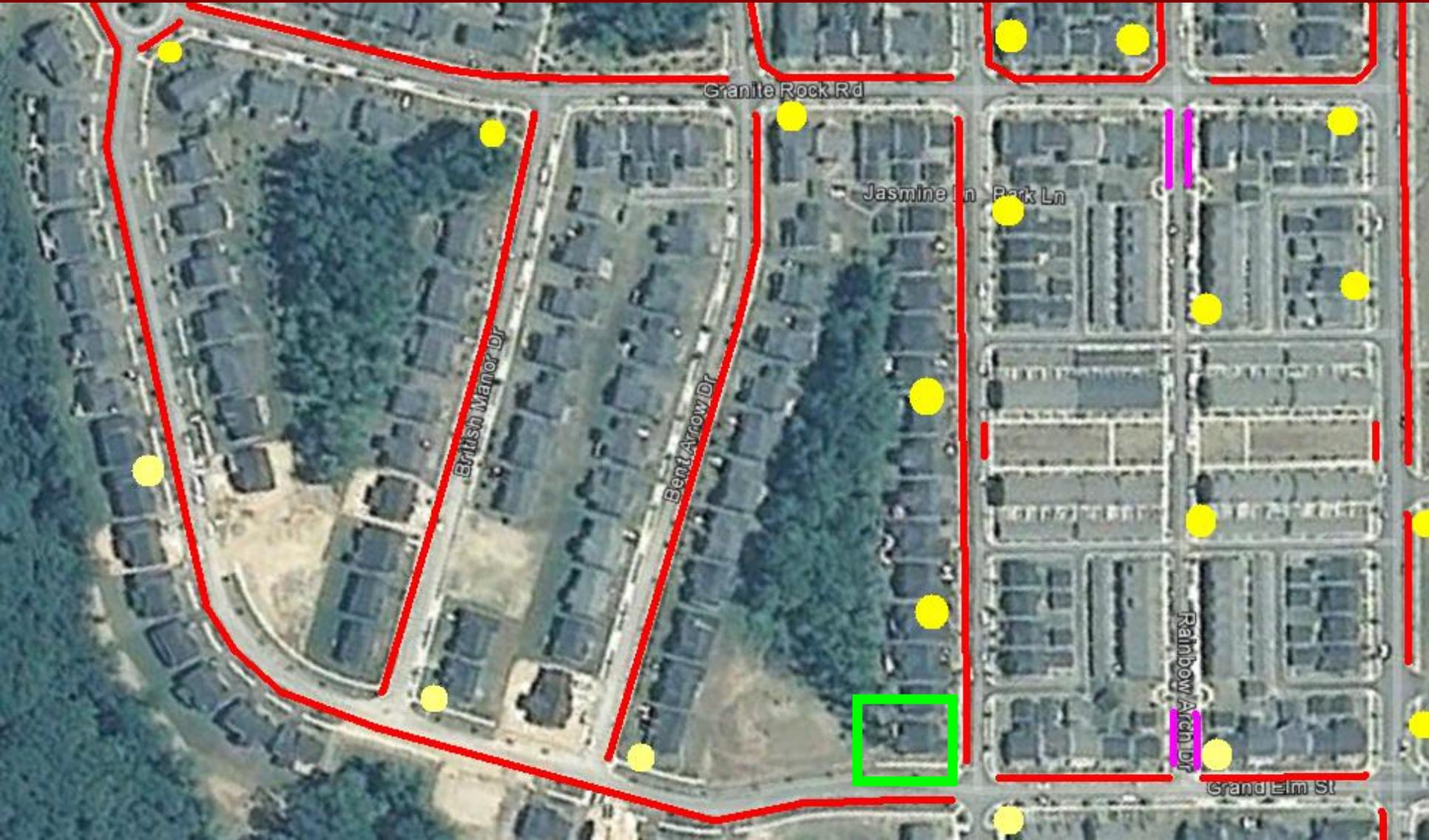
- Blue Sky
- Bent Arrow
- Granite Rock

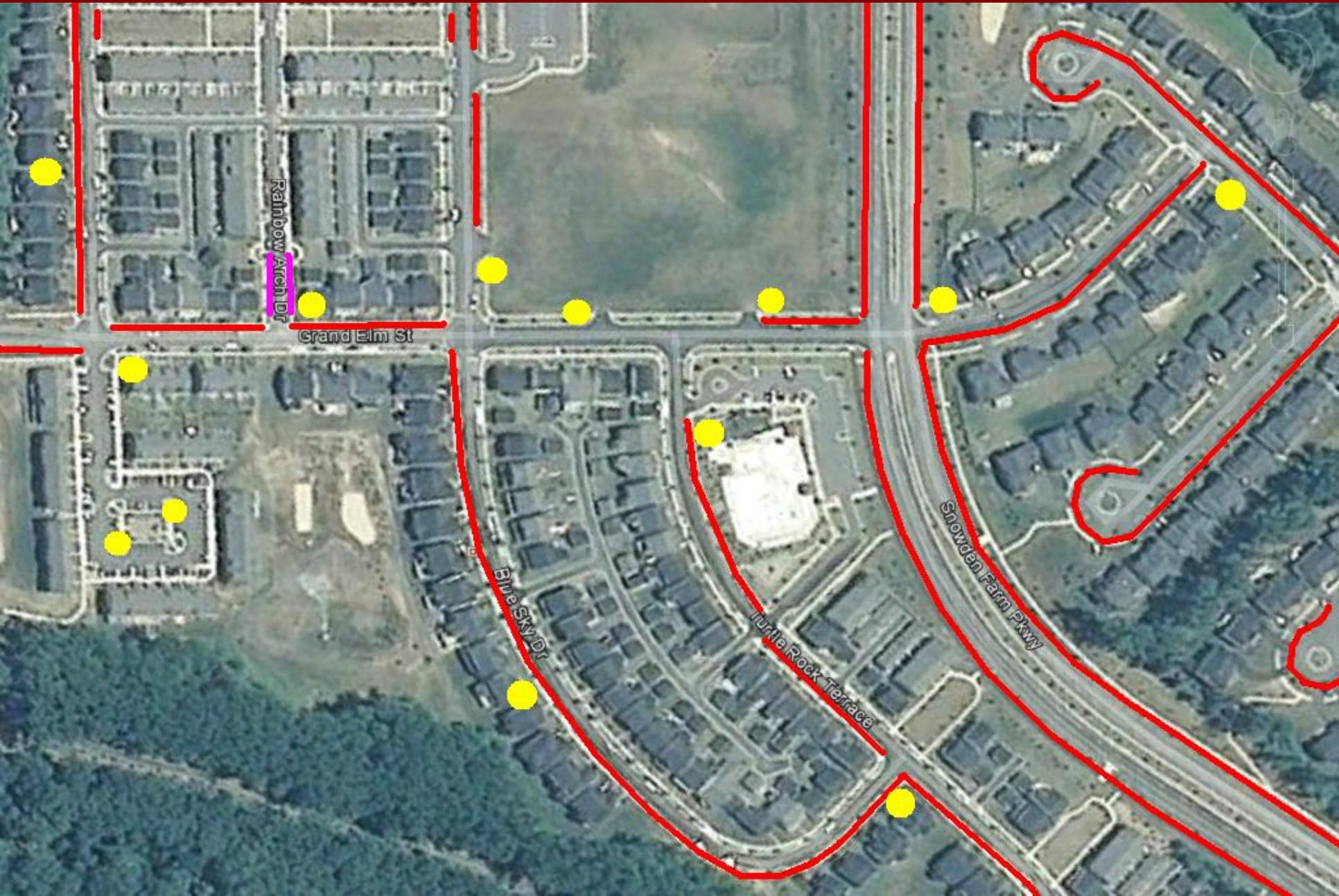


- Grand Elm
- Granite Rock

- British Manor
- Bent Arrow
- Robin Song

- Rainbow Arch
- Blue Sky





Rainbow Arch Dr

Grand Elm St

Blue Sky Dr

Turtle Rock Terrace

Snowden Farm Pkwy

- Grand Elm  
Piedmont



# Next Steps

- Begin sign installation
- Evaluate other communities with similar conditions
  - built
  - under construction
  - in the review process
- Touch base with the communities after installation to evaluate the effects
- Re-evaluate as necessary

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR TIME

Marie LaBaw  
240-773-8917

[marie.labaw@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:marie.labaw@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Police Non-Emergency  
301-279-8000