

Public Hearing

MEMORANDUM

January 31, 2014

TO: County Council

FROM: Marlene Michaelson, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan

On September 20, 2013, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) transmitted its Planning Board Draft of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan to the County Council.

Subsequent to advertising the public hearing, however, the Council asked the Planning Board to continue working on the Plan, to further address transportation issues.

On December 20, 2013, the Planning Board submitted revisions to its initial Planning Board Draft. The Council is holding a second public hearing on the revised Planning Board Draft of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. Copies of the Planning Board Draft of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan and the revisions can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/wosg/>

The vision of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan includes: White Oak's major centers—Hillandale, White Oak, and Life Sciences/FDA Village—evolving from conventional, auto-dependent suburban shopping centers, business parks, and light industrial areas into vibrant, mixed-use, transit-served nodes. Redevelopment of the centers would be carefully integrated with existing residential neighborhoods and designed to enhance the entire area's quality of life, appearance, walkability, and sense of place. The Plan includes connecting the centers to each other and the broader region through a transit system with Bus Rapid Transit as an integral component. Outdoor experiences will be broadened by an enhanced open space, trail, and bikeway network that incorporates the area's natural environmental features.

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee is tentatively scheduled to begin reviewing the Plan on March 3, 2014.