



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

February 16, 2022

Mr. Christopher Conklin, PE, Director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

SUBJECT: Mandatory Referral MR2022012: MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway Segment 3:
Proposed sidepath and shoulder improvements

Dear Mr. Conklin:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 3, 2022, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved Mandatory Referral No. 20220012 by a vote of 5:0, for the design of sidepath and shoulder improvements on MacArthur Boulevard between Oberlin Avenue and the DC line, with the following comments:

1. Widen Shoulders and Street Buffer

Widen shoulders to a width of 4 feet to serve as a bikeable shoulder along the whole length of the project and provide an adequate 6-foot-wide minimum street buffer between the road and the sidepath. These changes would result in a cross section that is 3 feet wider.

2. Posted/Target Speed and Related Design Elements

Reduce the MacArthur Blvd posted speed to 25 mph, as it is classified as a Neighborhood Connector under the Planning Board approved Complete Streets Design Guide. In addition, the design elements of the road should be adjusted to this lower speed, including high-visibility and raised crosswalks. This should include the implementation of automated speed enforcement and “slow down” signs, if these actions are deemed necessary to help achieve speed compliance.

3. Pedestrian Refuge – Oberlin Avenue to Clara Barton Parkway Ramp

Provide a pedestrian refuge on the south side of MacArthur Boulevard between Oberlin Avenue and the ramp to Clara Barton Parkway.

4. Sidepath Elevation at Driveways

Where the sidepath crosses driveways, maintain the sidepath’s elevation across the driveway. If necessary, the sidepath should be pulled away from the roadway at driveways.

5. High Visibility Crosswalks

Provide high-visibility raised crosswalks, with median refuge where feasible, for crossing MacArthur Blvd to improve connections with residential communities and/or between bus stop pairs at the following four intersections:

- Mohican Road
- Access to Mohican Swim Club
- Walhonding Road
- Maryland Avenue

6. MacArthur Boulevard/Sangamore Road/Madaket Road intersection

Provide a high-visibility crosswalk on the eastbound leg of MacArthur Boulevard at Sangamore Road/Madaket Road. Also, provide separate accessible ramps on the southeast corner for the crosswalks crossing MacArthur Boulevard and Madaket Road. Pedestrian corner refuge area improvements are also needed on the southeast corner to accommodate current and future use, as this intersection will provide a major connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between the MacArthur Boulevard sidepath, the future American Legion bridge connection, and the Little Falls Stream Valley and Capital Crescent Trails. There is also concern about the multi-stage crossing required for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross on the westbound leg, so modifications to this intersection should be explored by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation in the future.

7. Wayfinding for Connecting Park Trails

Incorporate additional wayfinding signage for trail users, highlighting the connection to both the Little Falls Stream Valley Trail and the Capital Crescent Trail.

8. Environmental Impact – Need for Additional Information

Please provide further information regarding the current approach to limit environmental impacts specifically related to slopes, forest, and endangered species and identify the procedures or measures that will be implemented.

9. Future Coordination for Advanced Design Phases of the Project

The Applicant should continue to coordinate with M-NCPPC staff during the development of 65 percent, Semi-Final, and Final design plans to help this agency continue to monitor the progress of this design project.

10. Connection between Cabin John Local Park and MacArthur Boulevard

While located outside the immediate project area, MCDOT should consider improving connections between the existing Cabin John Trail and the C&O Canal Trail by improving the crossing on MacArthur Boulevard and adding potential connections down to the C&O Canal Trail.

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The Planning Board appreciates the opportunity to review this project and continue coordinating with your staff on this and future projects. If you have questions, please contact Stephen Aldrich at 301-495-4528 or Stephen.Aldrich@montgomeryplanning.org.

Sincerely,



Casey Anderson
Chair

Enclosure:
M-NCPPC Staff Mandatory Referral Staff Report

cc: Stephen Aldrich, Master Planner, M-NCPPC
Jason Sartori, Chief, M-NCPPC
Dan Sheridan, MCDOT
Yasamin Esmaili, MCDOT

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