

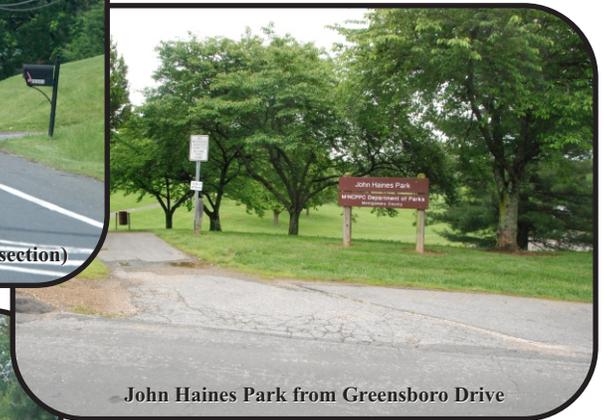
Oak Drive/Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Improvement Project

Phase I Facility Planning Study Draft Project Prospectus

June 2011



Pedestrians on MD 27 at Oak Drive (north intersection)



John Haines Park from Greensboro Drive



School children on Oak Drive at Avonlea Ridge Place



John T. Baker Middle School
along Oak Drive



Montgomery County Department of
Transportation
Planning

<http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DTE/Projects/ProjectHome.aspx>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Looking north along Oak Drive prior to John T. Baker Middle School.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has completed the Phase I Facility Planning Study for the Oak Drive / Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Improvement Project. The Study evaluates improving Oak Drive (approximately one mile) from its southern intersection with MD 27 to John T. Baker Middle School; a 1.5 mile section of MD 27 from Oak Drive (southern intersection) to Bethesda Church Road; Kingstead Road; and Greensboro Drive from Oak Drive to the John Haines Neighborhood Park (See **Figure ES-1** on page *ii*) by providing pedestrian and bikeway continuity, connectivity and safety. The Phase I Study includes the purpose and need statement; development of alternatives and their benefits and impacts; outreach to the public and stakeholders; and a technical recommendation to advance to Phase II Facility Planning.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

The roadways evaluated within the Study Area are located in Damascus, Maryland.

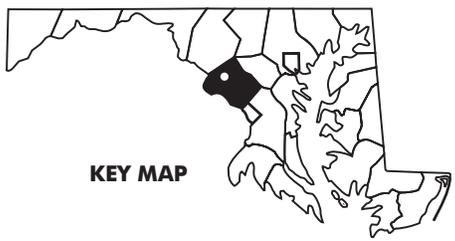
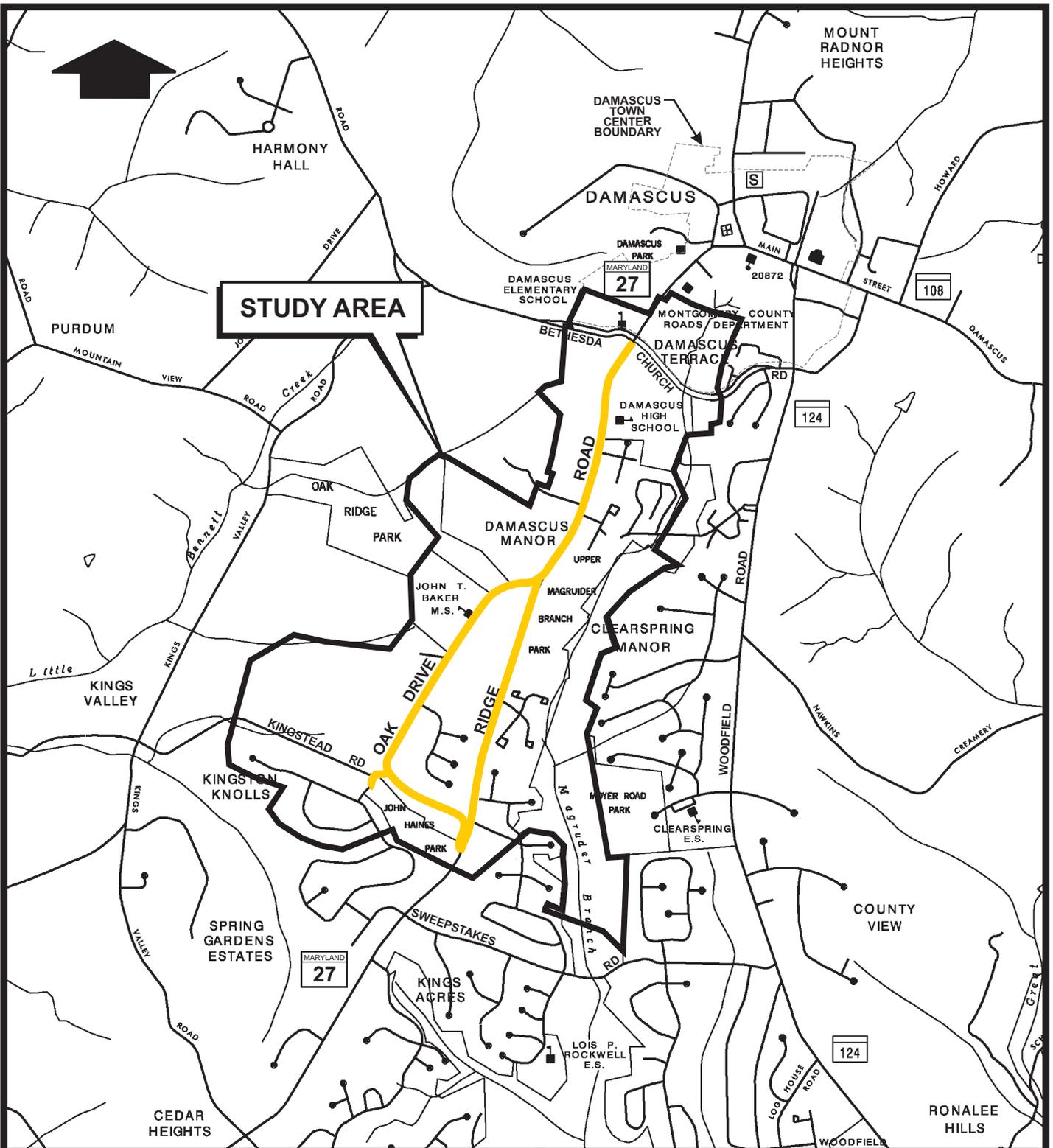
Oak Drive is a county-maintained two-lane primary residential roadway with mostly open-section features. Closed-section roadway features are intermittently present in the area from John T. Baker Middle School east to MD 27. This roadway is approximately one mile long, with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour (mph) and variable existing right-of-way (ROW) width of approximately 30 to 80-feet.

MD 27 is a state-maintained two-lane arterial roadway with alternating open and closed-section features. The length of MD 27, from the southern intersection with Oak Drive to Bethesda Church Road, is approximately 1.5 miles. Between its southern and northern intersections with Oak Drive, MD 27 has a posted speed limit of 40 mph. North of Oak Drive to Bethesda Church Road, the posted speed limit slows to 30 mph. Existing ROW width along MD 27 varies from approximately 40 to 140-feet within the project limits.

Kingstead Road is a county-maintained two-lane primary residential roadway with open-section features. The roadway has a posted speed limit of 25 mph, and typically falls within a 60 to 80-foot existing ROW.

Greensboro Drive is a county-maintained two-lane primary residential roadway with open-section features. The roadway has a posted speed limit of 25 mph and typically falls within a 60-foot existing ROW.

The majority of the Study Area consists of residential and institutional/recreational land uses (i.e., John T. Baker Middle School, Damascus Elementary and High School, and Damascus Community Recreation Center). Within a 1.5 mile radius of the project, there are seventeen Montgomery County Ride-On public transit bus stops along MD 27 (14 stops are within the Study Area), which provide service to destinations such as the Shady Grove Metro Station, Damascus Park and Ride Lot, Senior Center and Library via Bus Route 90. Sidewalk exists along the west side of Oak Drive between the John T. Baker Middle School and MD 27 (northern intersection) as well as at the intersections of Oak Drive/Avonlea Ridge Place and Oak Drive/MD 27 (northern intersection). Within the project limits, MD 27 is currently designated as a Signed Shared Roadway with On-Road Bike Lanes in each direction.



KEY MAP

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**OAK DRIVE/RIDGE ROAD (MD 27)
SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
FACILITY PLANNING STUDY - PHASE 1**

LOCATION MAP

DATE	2000	0	2000	FIGURE NO.
JUNE 2011	SCALE IN FEET			ES-1

Sidewalk exists intermittently along the east side of MD 27 as well as at the intersections of Oak Drive (north) and Bethesda Church Road. There are no existing pedestrian or on-road bicycle facilities along either side of Kingstead Road; however, this roadway connects to Greensboro Drive, which provides access to an existing Shared-Use Path within the John Haines Neighborhood Park. There are no existing pedestrian or on-road bicycle facilities along either side of Greensboro Drive; however, there is an existing Shared-Use Path adjacent to this roadway within the John Haines Neighborhood Park.

This Study is being guided by two approved area master plans: (1) 2006 *Damascus Master Plan (Master Plan)*, and (2) March 2005 *Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan (Bikeways Plan)*. A summary of Area Master Plan recommendations are highlighted in **Table ES-1** (page *iv*), and excerpts are included in **Appendix A**.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Oak Drive / Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Improvement Project is to implement the approved Master Plan visions in the Study Area; encourage alternate modes of transportation, provide safe pedestrian and bikeway continuity/connectivity between residential neighborhoods, schools and community facilities; improve access to transit stops; improve access to commercial facilities within the Damascus Town Center; and provide health benefits.

PROJECT NEED

The Oak Drive / MD 27 sidewalk improvements are needed to address the lack of continuous and safe access to existing sidewalks and bikeways, residential neighborhoods, transit stops and commercial and public facilities (e.g., schools, religious facilities, parks, recreation center) along and beyond the Study Area.

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED

The Study Team, including representatives from several MCDOT divisions and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), with input from the public, completed an analysis of three alternatives.

- ❑ Alternative 1: No-Build
- ❑ Alternative 2: Master Plan Improvements
- ❑ Alternative 3: Modified Master Plan Improvements (Recommended Alternative)

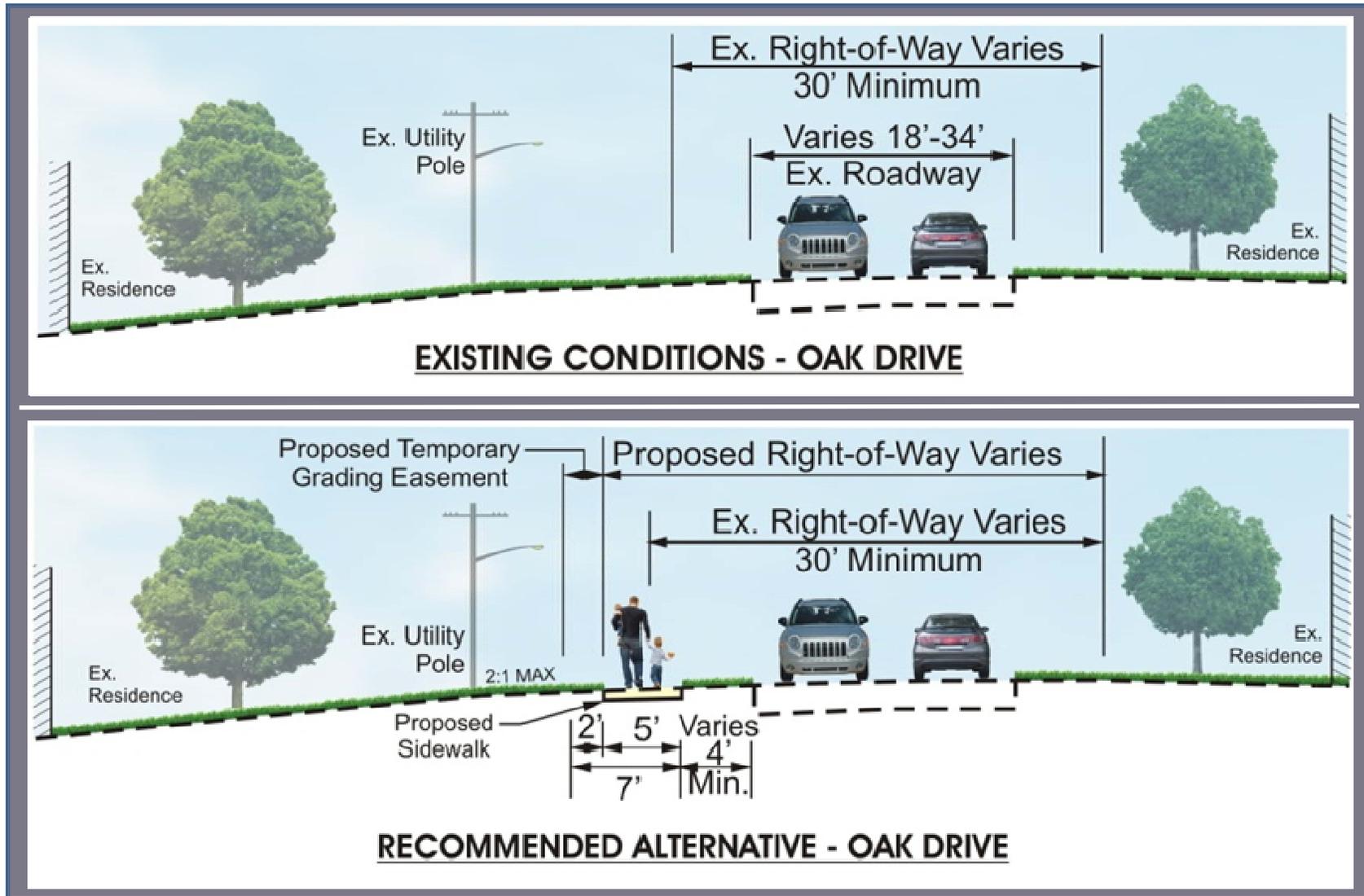
TEAM RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

The Recommended Alternative - Modified Master Plan Improvements (see **Figures ES-2** and **ES-3** on pages *v* and *vi*) provides improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities as described below within the project limits:

- ❑ A 5' wide sidewalk with greenspace along the west side of Oak Drive from its southern intersection with MD 27 to John T. Baker Middle School;
- ❑ A 5' wide sidewalk with greenspace along the south side of Kingstead Road from Oak Drive to approximately 50' along Greensboro Drive; and
- ❑ A 5' wide sidewalk on the east side of MD 27 from its southern intersection with Oak Drive to Damascus High School.

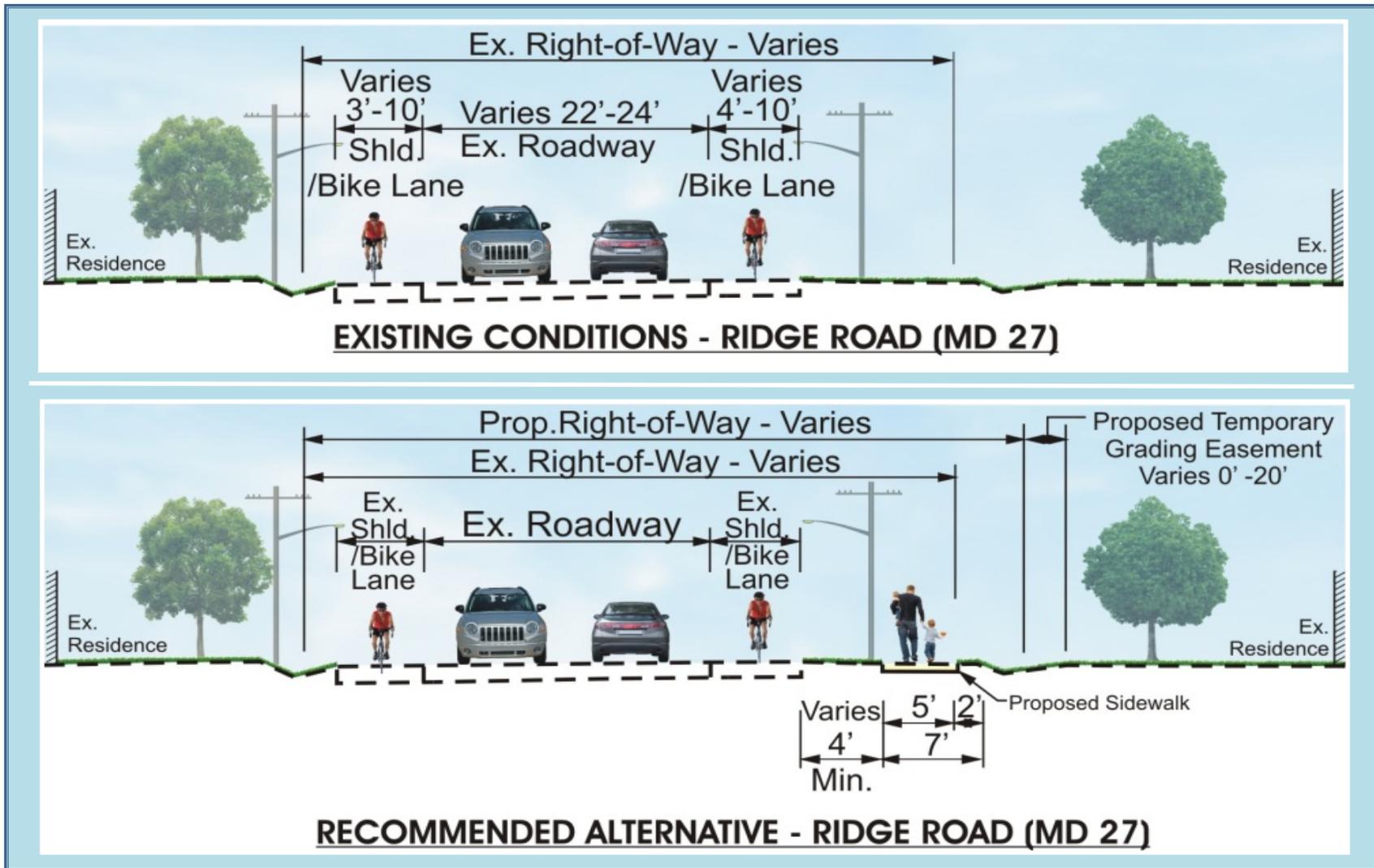
Table ES-1. Summary of Master Plan Sidewalk and Bikeway Recommendations within the Oak Drive / MD 27 Study Area		
Roadway	Damascus Master Plan	Countywide Bikeways Plan
General	Implement sidewalk, shared-use path and bikeway routes to support the goal of increasing opportunities to provide convenient connections and encourage walking to key activity centers within the plan area and to create an interconnected system with the Magruder Branch Trail as the backbone of the trail system.	N/A
Oak Drive	Shared-Use Path (Class I) along Oak Drive (B-8) from MD 27 (north intersection) to Baker Middle School, which provides a connection between Magruder Branch Trail and key activity centers along Oak Drive.	N/A
Ridge Road (MD 27)	<p>Consider a below-grade pedestrian tunnel under Ridge Road at its intersection with Valley Park Drive/Oak Drive for pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Provide safe and effective pedestrian crossings at current and future traffic signals along MD 27.</p> <p>Implement sidewalk or shared-use path connections to key activity centers along MD 27 between the Town Center and Sweepstakes Road.</p> <p>On-Road Bikeway (Class II or III) along MD 27 (SR-39) from Southern Planning Area Boundary to Howard County Line, which provides a connection between Damascus and Germantown.</p> <p>On-Road Bikeway (Class II or III) along Bethesda Church Road (B-1) from MD 27 to Clarksburg Road, which provides a connection to Little Bennett Regional Park.</p> <p>Shared-Use Path (Class I) along Valley Park Drive (B-6) from MD 27 to Woodfield Road (MD 124), which provides a connection to the Magruder Branch Trail.</p>	Signed Shared Roadway (SR-39) along Ridge Road (MD 27) from Brink Road north to the Howard County line, which provides a connection between Damascus and Germantown
Kingstead Road	N/A	N/A
Greensboro Drive	N/A	N/A
Bethesda Church Road	On-Road Bikeway (Class II or III) from MD 27 to Clarksburg Road (B-1)	N/A
Valley Park Drive	Shared-Use Path (Class I) from MD 27 to Woodfield Road (MD 124) (B-6)	N/A

Figure ES-2. Alternative 3, Recommended Alternative (along Oak Drive)*



*To minimize impacts, retaining walls are proposed along Oak Drive in the vicinity of John T. Baker Middle School and the Oak Drive/MD 27 northern intersection. The measurements above are based on planning level analysis and may be subject to change during 35% design.

Figure ES-3. Alternative 3, Recommended Alternative (along Ridge Road, MD 27)*



*To minimize impacts, retaining walls are proposed along MD 27 near Bloom Drive and the Oak Drive/MD 27 northern intersection. The measurements above are based on planning level analysis and may be subject to change during 35% design.