

March 5, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Montgomery County Planning Board

**VIA:** Jeffrey Zyontz, Chief *JZ*  
County-wide Planning Division

Richard C. Hawthorne, Chief *RCH*  
Transportation Planning

**FROM:** Alex Hekimian: 301-495-4525, for the Park and Planning Department *AH*

**SUBJECT:** Resolution to Approve and Adopt Amendment to Master Plan of Highways

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**Recommendation:** Approve attached draft resolution and forward to full Commission for adoption on March 17, 2004.

**Background**

On February 3, 2004, the Montgomery County Council passed a resolution to approve and adopt a proposed amendment to the Master Plan of Highways and related master plans (see attached County Council resolution). The amendment would add two projects to the master plans:

- Capital Beltway high occupancy vehicle lanes project, between the American Legion Bridge and the west spur of I-270.
- Interchange at the intersection of Randolph Road and Veirs Mill Road.

The report that describes the amendment and explains the rationales for the two projects is attached. (Board packet only),

The final step in the amendment process is for the Montgomery County Planning Board, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to pass a similar resolution.

JZ:RCH:AH:gw  
Attachments

**DRAFT**

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by virtue of Chapter 780 of the Laws of Maryland, 1959, as amended, is authorized and empowered from time to time to make and adopt, amend, extend and add to the *General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties*; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, pursuant to procedures set forth in the Montgomery County Code, Chapter 33A, held duly advertised public hearings on February 20, 2003, and on January 8, 2004, on a proposed Amendment to the *Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County*, as amended ("Amendment"), (which is also an amendment of the *2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan*; the *1990 Bethesda Chevy-Chase Master Plan*, as amended; and the *1989 Master Plan for the Communities of Kensington-Wheaton*; being also an amendment to the *General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties*, as amended); and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Planning Board, following due deliberation and consideration, on April 10, 2003, approved a draft Amendment ("Draft Amendment"), and recommended that it be transmitted to the Montgomery County Executive and the Montgomery County Council, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District lying within Montgomery County ("District Council"); and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2003, the Montgomery County Planning Board submitted the Draft Amendment to the District Council; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Executive reviewed the Master Plan of Highways Draft Amendment, completed a Fiscal Impact Analysis on July 24, 2003, and made recommendations to the Montgomery County Council on July 24, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the District Council held a public hearing on September 11, 2003, wherein no testimony was received concerning the Draft Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council's Transportation and Environment Committee, at worksessions held on September 18, 2003 and January 29, 2004, reviewed the Draft Amendment and the issues raised at the public hearing with the Montgomery County Planning Board, the Montgomery County Executive staff and interested parties; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2003, and February 3, 2004, the District Council reviewed the Draft Amendment and, subsequently, on February 3, 2004, the District Council approved the Amendment, with certain revisions, as set forth in Council Resolution 15-487;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Planning Board and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission do hereby adopt said Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, (which is also an amendment of the *2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan*; the *1990 Bethesda Chevy-Chase Master Plan*, as amended; and the *1989 Master Plan for the Communities of Kensington-Wheaton*; being also an amendment to the *General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties*, as amended), as approved with revisions by the District Council in the attached Resolution 15-487; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as to Resolution 04-07, this adoption be effective March 17, 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of said Amendment shall be certified by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of each of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as required by law.

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Trudye M. Johnson  
Executive Director

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission on motion by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, with Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_ voting in favor of the motion at its regular meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Maryland.

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Trudye M. Johnson  
Executive Director

Resolution No.: 15-487  
Introduced: February 3, 2004  
Adopted: February 3, 2004

**COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION  
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT  
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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By: District Council

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**SUBJECT:** Approval of Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County

**Background**

On May 19, 2003 the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the County Council and the County Executive the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County.

The Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County amends the following plans: Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, as amended; the General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery County, as amended; the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan; the 1990 Bethesda/Chevy Chase Master Plan, as amended; and the 1989 Master Plan for the Communities of Kensington-Wheaton.

On July 24, 2003 the County Executive transmitted to the County Council a copy of the Fiscal Impact Analysis on the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County.

On September 11, 2003 the County Council held a public hearing regarding the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, however there were no speakers. The Amendment was referred to the Transportation and Environment Committee for review and recommendation.

On September 18, 2003 and January 29, 2004 the Transportation and Environment Committee held worksessions to review the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County.

On September 30, 2003 and February 3, 2004 the County Council reviewed the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County and the recommendations of the Transportation and Environment Committee.

### Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, dated April 2003, is approved with revisions. Council revisions to the Amendment are identified below. Deletions to the text are indicated by [brackets] and additions by underscoring.

On page 6 of the Amendment, in the section regarding the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, add new text, followed by an illustrative cross-section of the Beltway, as follows:

An illustrative cross-section for this portion of the Capital Beltway is shown below.

On page 7 of the Amendment, in the section regarding the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, add new text, followed by an illustrative cross-section of the Beltway, as follows:

An illustrative cross-section for this portion of the Capital Beltway is shown below.

On page 7 of the Amendment, add the following new text at the end of the second line:

Together with the existing HOV lanes on I-270 and the planned HOV lanes on the Beltway in Northern Virginia, these lanes will allow buses, carpools, and vanpools to travel regularly at congestion-free speeds between points in the I-270 Corridor and Northern Virginia.

On page 8 of the Amendment, delete text in the bottom paragraph as follows:

*Randolph Road/Veirs Mill Road Intersection* is recommended [for further study] as a grade-separated interchange.

On page 8 of the Amendment, add the following text at the end of the bottom paragraph:


The interchange design should minimize right-of-way takings and ingress and egress impacts on adjacent properties while still achieving the project's objectives. The interchange should also be designed to accommodate continuous bikeways on both Veirs Mill Road and Randolph Road. For each leg of the intersection, the right-of-way width shall be a minimum of 150 feet within a 600-foot distance from the center of the intersection.

This interchange will expedite bus transit on both Randolph Road and Veirs Mill Road, as part of the respective bus rapid transit lines currently under study.

**General**

All text, figures, and tables are to be revised, where necessary, to achieve clarity and consistency, to update factual information, and to convey District Council changes to the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County. All identifying references pertain to the Planning Board Draft Amendment to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, dated April 2003.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Mary A. Edgar, CMC  
Clerk of the Council