

May 13, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

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

FROM: Larry Cole: 301-495-4528, for the Park and Planning Department *LC*

SUBJECT: Wheaton Metro Station Area Pedestrian Safety Evaluation Project – Informational Briefing by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING TEAM AREA: Georgia Avenue

Recommendation: Receive briefing from Maryland Department of Transportation staff

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been studying alternatives over the last year to improve pedestrian safety and mobility in the area around the Wheaton Metro Station area. MDOT headed a study team composed of State Highway Administration staff, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation, and Regional Services Center staff, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) staff, and residents of the area.

The group met several times and participated in documenting the physical conditions of pedestrian facilities in the area. MDOT's consultant evaluated the information gathered by the team and collated police reports of the vehicular collisions with pedestrians. The study team presented their preliminary findings to residents at two public meetings.

The consultant is about to submit their final report to MDOT. In addition to recommending physical and operational changes to improve pedestrian accommodation and safety, the report will also recommend a roadway realignment that staff believes will require an amendment to the Wheaton Central Business District Sector Plan. Ennalls Avenue between Grandview Avenue and Georgia Avenue is recommended to be realigned so that the eastern end of Ennalls Avenue is aligned with Price Avenue across Georgia Avenue. New traffic signals are

recommended at the Georgia Avenue/Ennalls Avenue/Price Avenue and Veirs Mill Road/Ennalls Avenue intersections. This change, along with other minor recommended changes, is shown on Figure 1 (attached).

These recommendations are being made to improve pedestrian accommodation and safety and to improve local traffic circulation. M-NCPPC staff has not yet evaluated these changes.

MDOT is not proposing to undertake any schedule of improvements at this time. With the exception of the Ennalls Avenue relocation, which could be implemented as part of redevelopment, the recommended improvements would likely be undertaken by the State Highway Administration or the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation. Physical improvements would likely be subject to Mandatory Referral, but operational improvements, such as signal timing changes and installing countdown pedestrian signal heads, might be undertaken without review by staff. When the individual pieces are proposed for construction, staff will keep the big picture in mind and inform the Board as to how the overall goal of improving pedestrian safety will be advanced in the Wheaton CBD.

LC/gw
Attachment

mmo to mcpb re wheaton ped study 052004

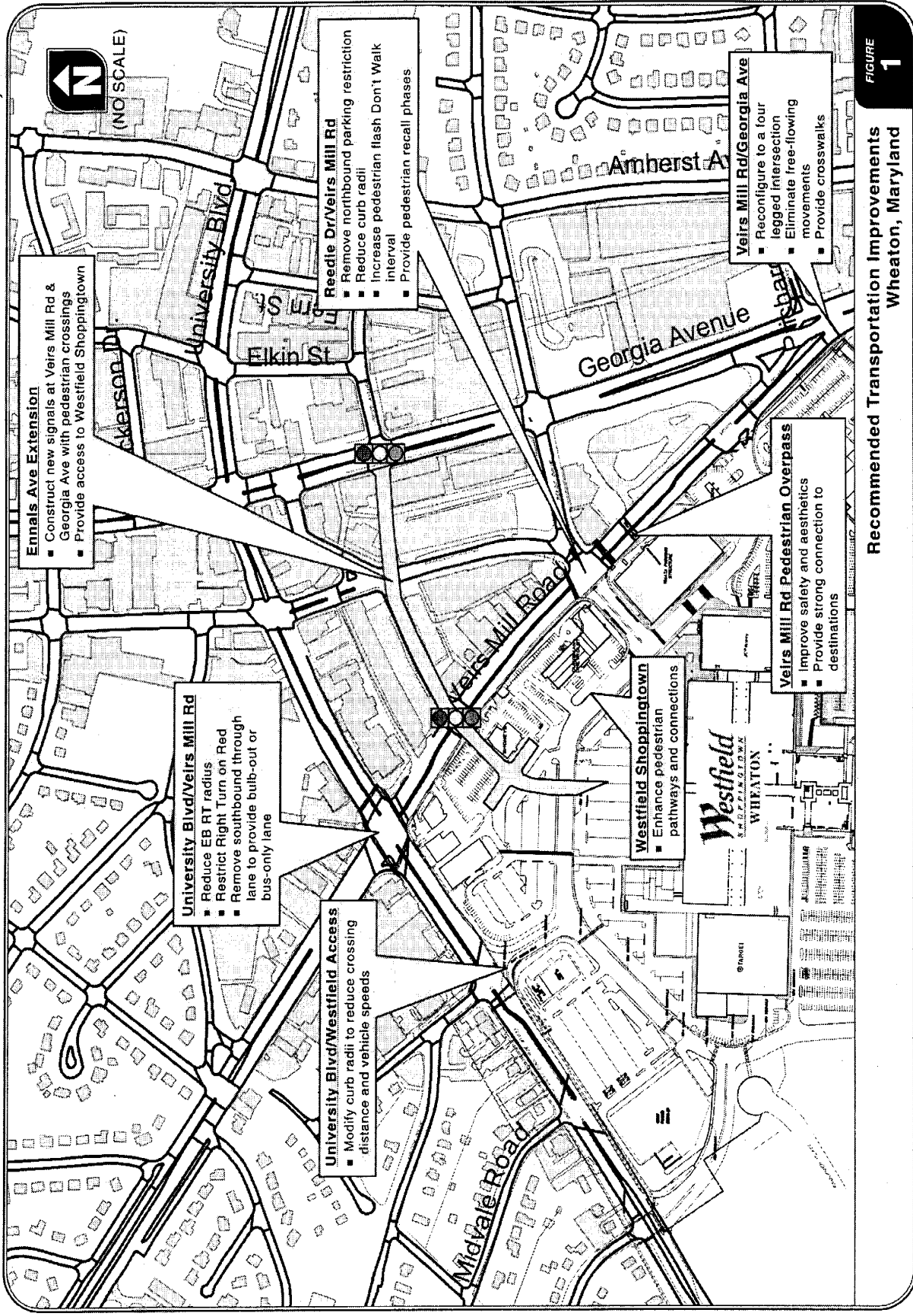


FIGURE 1

Recommended Transportation Improvements
Wheaton, Maryland

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