



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

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Montgomery County Planning Board
Office of the Chairman

June 18, 2004

Mr. Michael C. Hoyt, Acting Director
Department of Public Works and Transportation
101 Monroe Street, Tenth Floor
Rockville, MD 20850-2540

RE: Burtonsville Access Road
From Burtonsville Elementary School Access Road
To Spencerville Road (MD 198)
CIP Project No. 509337
Mandatory Referral No. 04802-DPW&T-1

Dear ~~Mr. Hoyt~~ ^{Mike}:

The Planning Board reviewed the Mandatory Referral of the above project at our regularly scheduled meeting on June 17, 2004 and approved the project with the following comments.

1. Implement the proposed tree-save plan, as revised on June 8, 2004.
2. A Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission inspector must be part of a pre-construction meeting to inspect tree protection measures and authorize the start of tree or forest clearing.
3. Commercial driveways should be designed per the applicable County standard, providing pedestrians with the least uninterrupted path of travel. The width of these driveways should be minimized.
4. The width of the Burtonsville Elementary School driveway on Burtonsville Access Road should be minimized. The first parking space to the east of the entrance should be eliminated.
5. Consider constructing a sidewalk along the east side of Burtonsville Elementary School Access Road.
6. Provide the right turn lane to the Burtonsville Shopping Center on Burtonsville Access Road, only if landscape panels with street trees are provided on each side of the adjacent sidewalk.

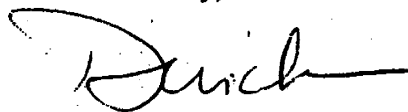
7. On the southwest side of Burtonsville Access Road at the eastern end of the project, offset the sidewalk from the roadway and provide landscaped buffers with street trees.
8. Extend the proposed sidewalk along the northeast side of Burtonsville Access Road to the Spencerville Road intersection and construct handicap ramps on the opposite side of Spencerville Road.
9. Evaluate the locations of the nearest bus stops on Spencerville Road to see whether they should be moved closer to the proposed intersection at Burtonsville Access Road.
10. Provide more landscaping to screen the view of parking lots from the proposed roadway.
11. Continue to coordinate the design of this project with State Highway Administration's (SHA) MD 28/MD 198 project.

In regard to the last comment, the Board would like to express our concerns over the current design alternatives being considered as part of SHA's MD28/MD198 study, which was referred to in the hearing, and while not the subject of this Mandatory Referral, has a clear link to the subject project. The County as a whole needs to work toward making sure that the businesses in Burtonsville remain viable after the construction of both road projects.

We appreciate your staff's efforts in coordinating these two projects and being sensitive to the needs of the businesses here, but we believe that additional input from the County Executive is necessary. To that end, we will be contacting the County's Department of Economic Development to ask that they also work with SHA to ensure that the end product of both projects is a more prosperous commercial area in Burtonsville.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please call Larry Cole at 301-495-4528.

Sincerely,



Derick P. Berlage
Chairman

DPB:LC:gw

cc: Shawn Burnett (SHA)

Excerpt from Montgomery County
Forest Conservation Law (Chapter 22A):

Sec. 22A-9. County Highway Projects.

(a) *General.*

(1) This section applies to construction of a highway by the County as part of an approved Capital Improvements Program project.

(2) The construction should minimize forest cutting or clearing and loss of specimen or champion trees to the extent possible while balancing other design, construction, and environmental standards. The constructing agency must make a reasonable effort to minimize the cutting or clearing of trees and other woody plants.

(b) If the forest to be cut or cleared for a County highway project equals or exceeds 40,000 square feet, the constructing agency must reforest a suitable area at the rate of one acre of reforestation for each acre of forest cleared.

(c) Reforestation for County highway projects must meet the standards in subsections 22A- 12(e), (g) and (h).

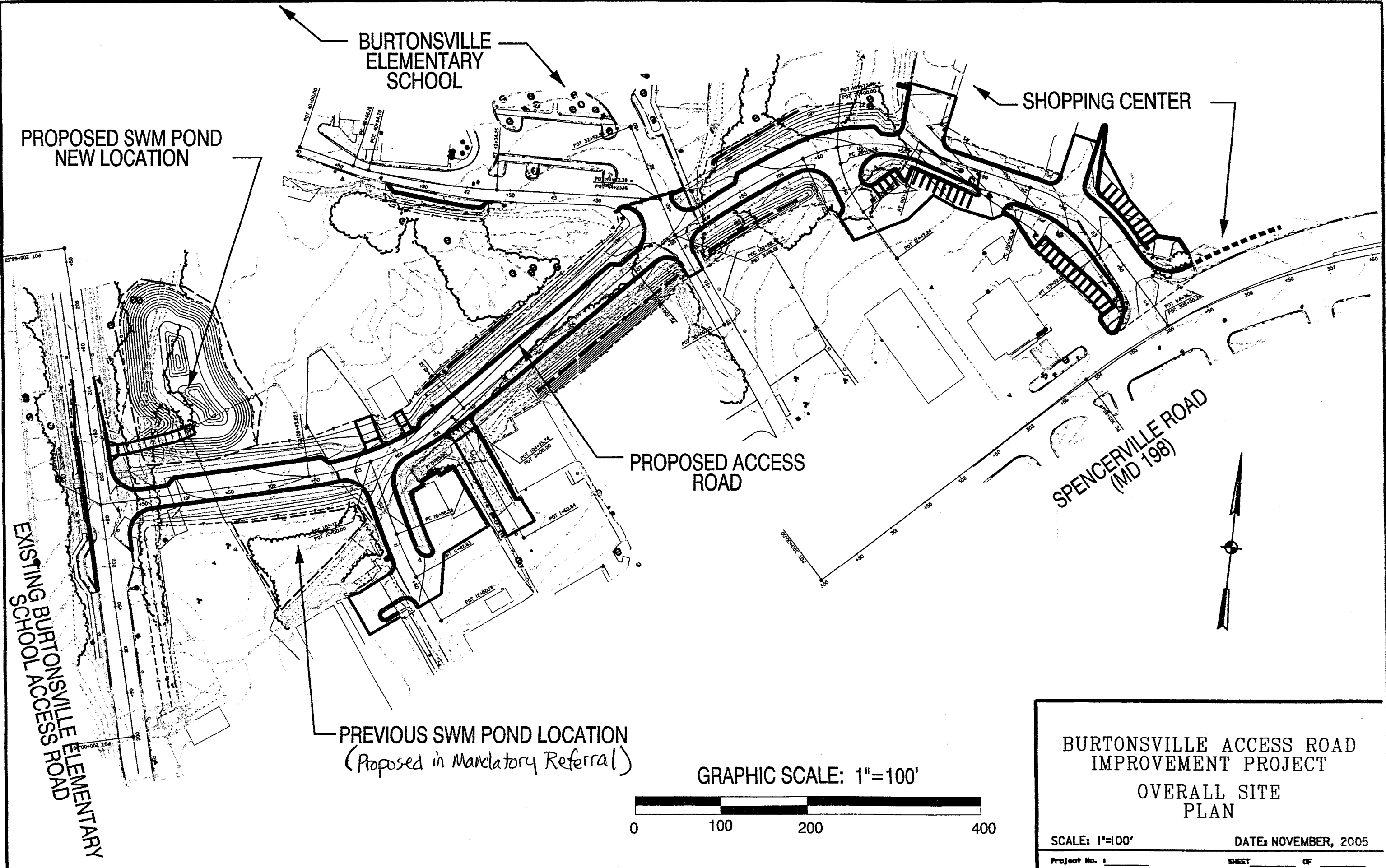
(d) Any mitigation requirement for loss of specimen or champion trees must be based on the size and character of the tree. (2001 L.M.C., ch. 19, § 1.)

Editor's note—2001 L.M.C., ch. 19, § 2, reads as follows:

Transition. Any amendment to Chapter 22A, inserted by Section 1 of this Act does not apply to:

(a) a preliminary or final forest conservation plan approved before this Act took effect [November 5, 2001], or

(b) a county highway project individually listed in the County Capital Improvements Program and submitted to the Planning Board under mandatory referral review before this Act took effect [November 5, 2001].



BURTONSVILLE ACCESS ROAD
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
OVERALL SITE
PLAN

SCALE: 1"=100' DATE: NOVEMBER, 2005

Project No. 1 SHEET OF