
MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S
PEDESTRIAN 
PLAN

The county's first Pedestrian Master Plan aims to make walking and rolling safer, more comfortable, more convenient and more accessible for pedestrians of all ages and abilities in all parts of the county.

Walking should be the preferred means of travel for all trips within a short distance, and accessibility for persons with disabilities must be paramount.

Walking and rolling on a mobility scooter or wheelchair should be **comfortable, convenient, safe and direct.**

[Montgomeryplanning.org/walkinghere](https://montgomeryplanning.org/walkinghere)

Timeline

September 5, 2019	— . — . — . —	Scope of Work Approved
September 2019 – January 2020	— . — . — . —	Existing Conditions Analysis
October 2019 – October 2020	— . — . — . —	Infrastructure Prioritization
January 2020 – October 2020	— . — . — . —	Design / Policy / Programming Recommendation Development
August 2020	— . — . — . —	Prioritization / Recommendations Public Meetings
November 2020 – May 2021	— . — . — . —	Public Hearing / Work Sessions / Planning Board Adoption
June 2021 – January 2022	— . — . — . —	County Council Public Hearing / Work Sessions / Plan Approval

#WalkingHere

Share your walk story with us

- Using social media (#walkinghere)
- Through the webform on the project website
- With a comment card

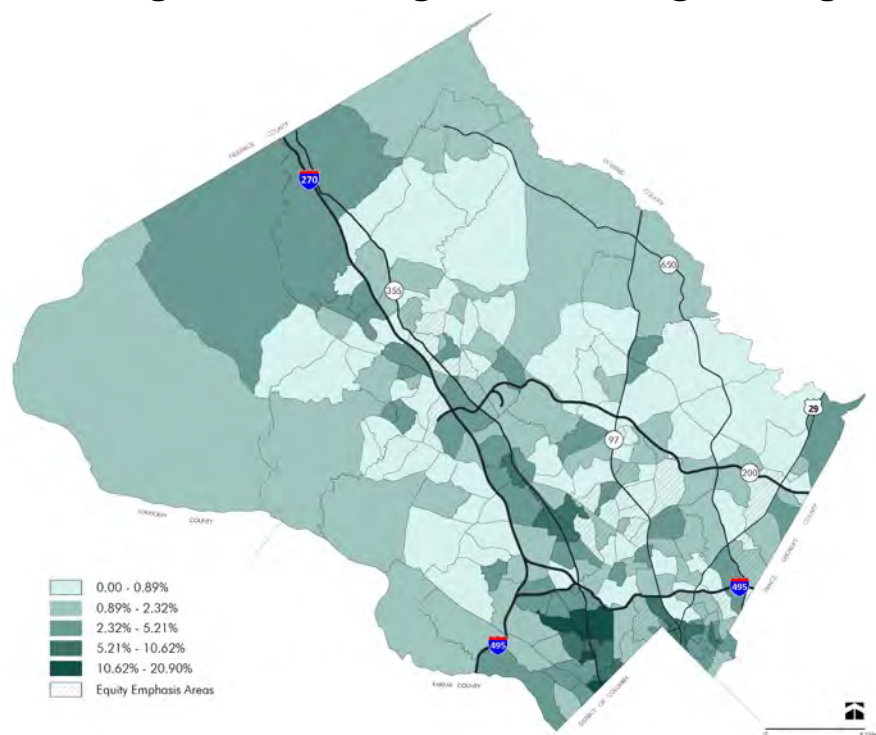
Answer one of these questions with your photo, video or comment:

- #WalkingHere is hard because _____.
- #WalkingHere feels unsafe because _____.
- #WalkingHere is easy because _____.
- I love #WalkingHere because _____.
- #WalkingHere could be better if _____.

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We're Walking and Rolling Here!

Percentage of People Age 16+ Walking/Rolling to Work

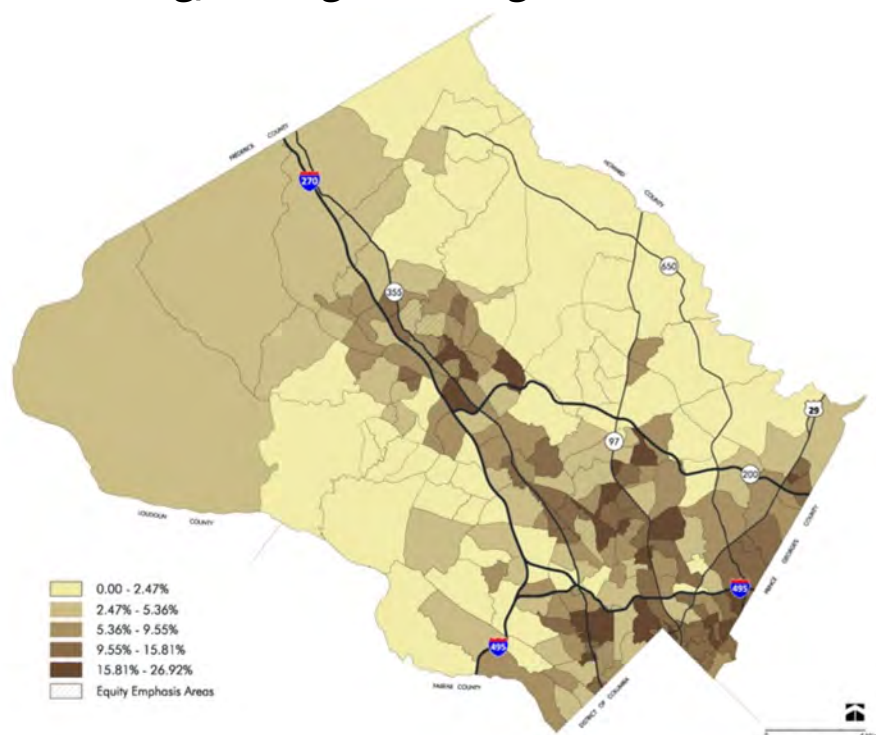


Census data doesn't tell us everything, but it says a lot!

In some parts of the county, more than ten percent of residents walk or roll to work.

Bus riders begin and end their trips as pedestrians. In some places, 25 percent or more of people either walk/roll or take the bus to work.

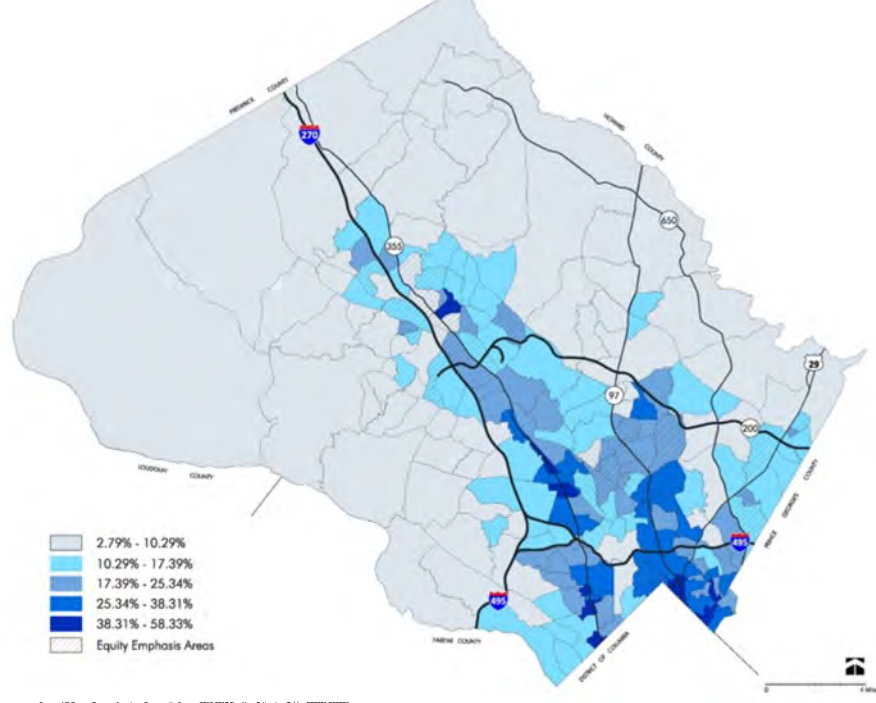
Percentage of People Age 16+ Walking/Rolling or Taking the Bus to Work



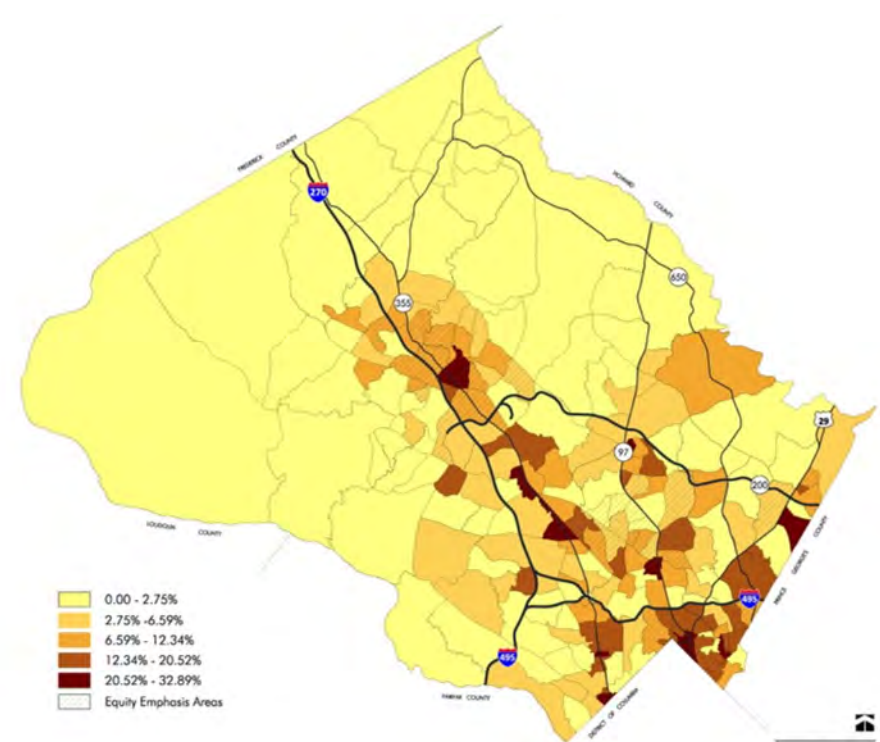
When Metro riders are added to the equation, there are places in Montgomery County where nearly 60 percent are pedestrians as part of their trip to work!

Available information does not include school-age pedestrians, people who do not work, or non-commute trips of any kind so the percentage of daily pedestrian trips is even higher!

Percentage of People Age 16+ Walking/Rolling, Taking the Bus or Metro to Work

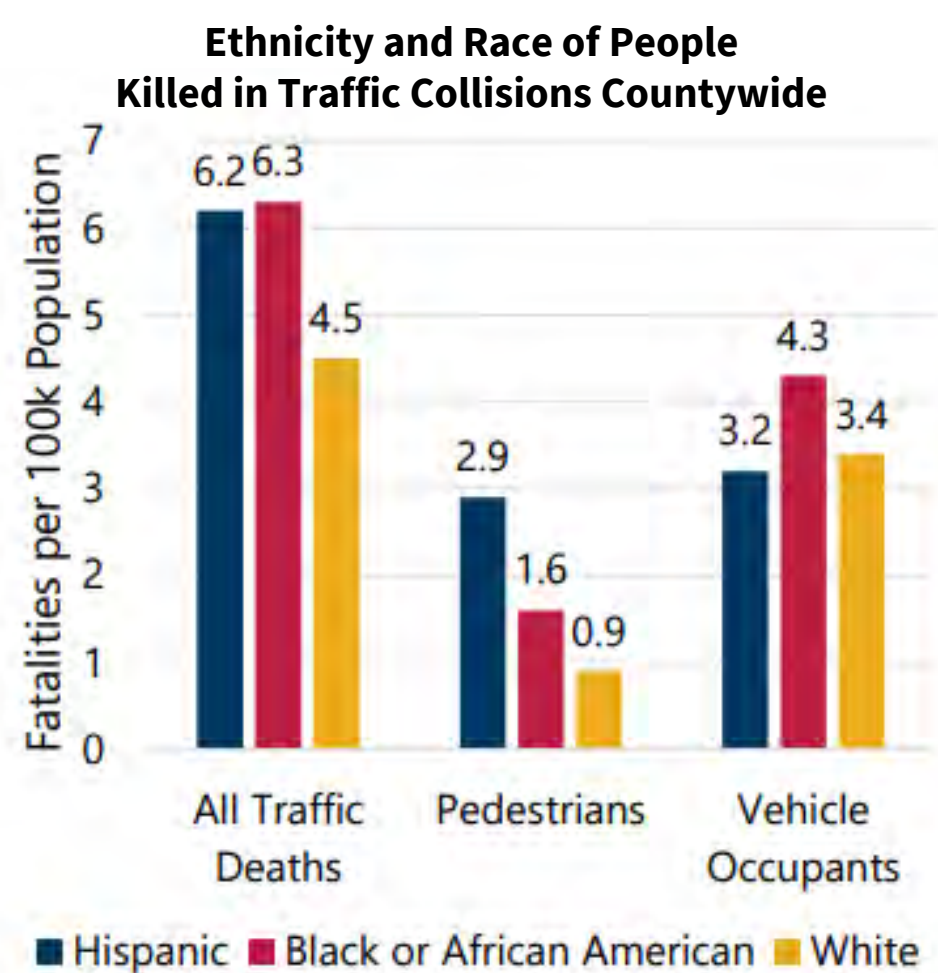


Percentage of Households without Motor Vehicle Access



In parts of Montgomery County, upwards of 30 percent of households do not own a car!

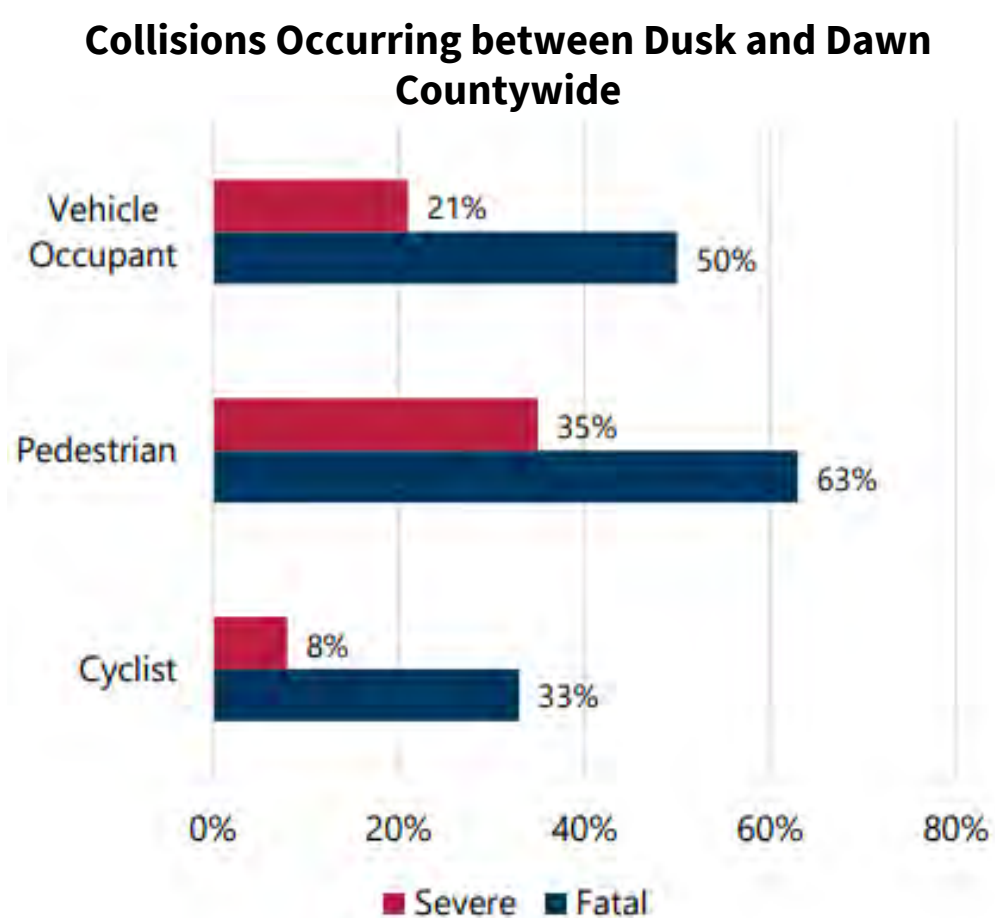
Pedestrian Safety



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 2011-2015 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016.
Note: Rates for cyclists and Asian/Pacific Islander not shown due to rates that fell below the reporting threshold.

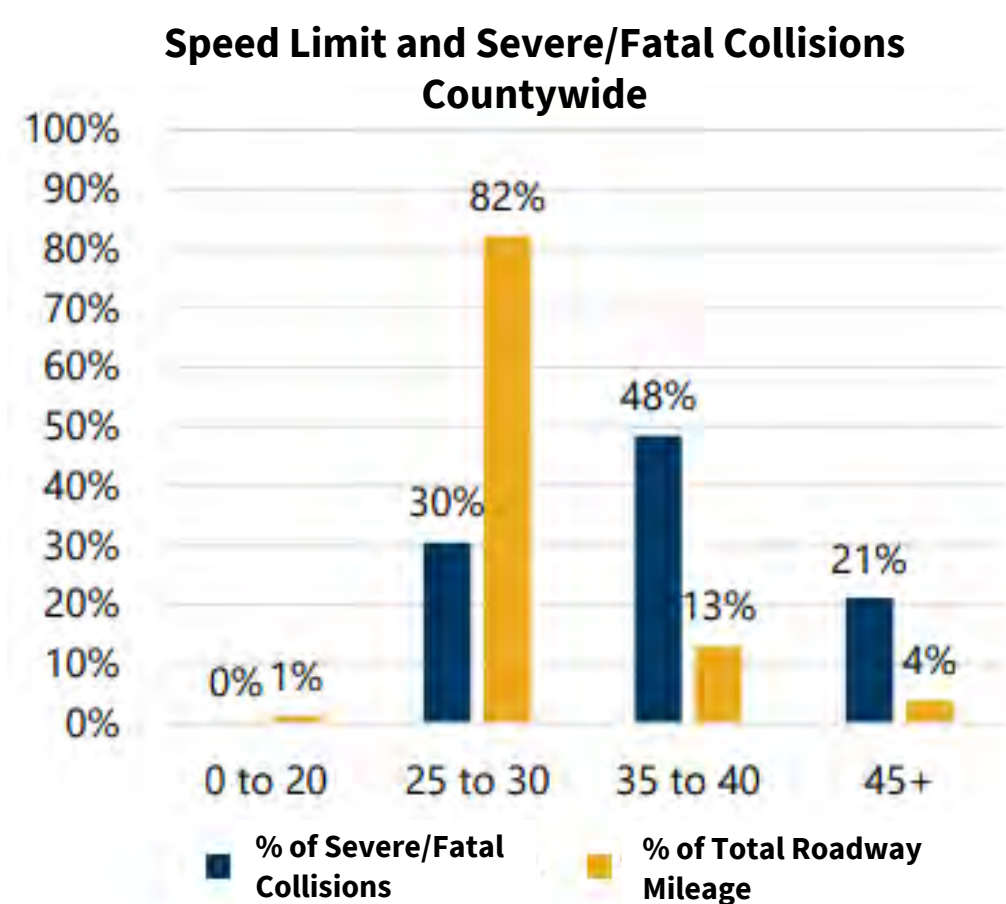
Black or African American pedestrians and Hispanic pedestrians are much likely to be killed than white pedestrians – nearly 2x and 3x more likely respectively.

Pedestrian safety is an equity issue.



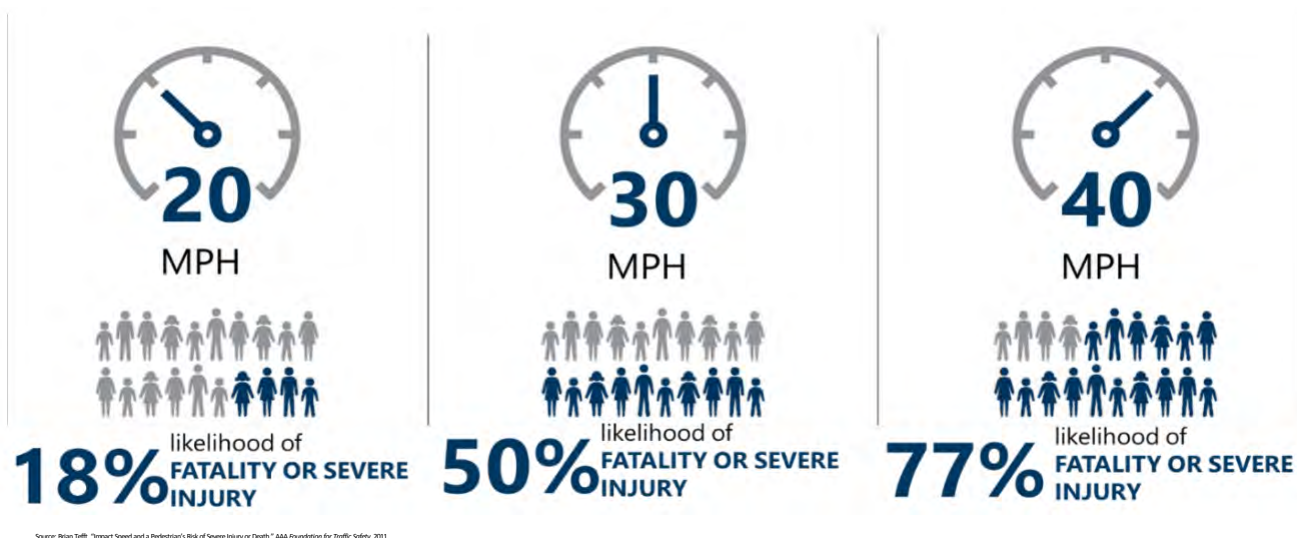
Most fatal pedestrian collisions happen at night. Pedestrians are also more likely than bicyclists or people in motor vehicles to be seriously injured when it is dark outside.

Lighting is a pedestrian safety issue.



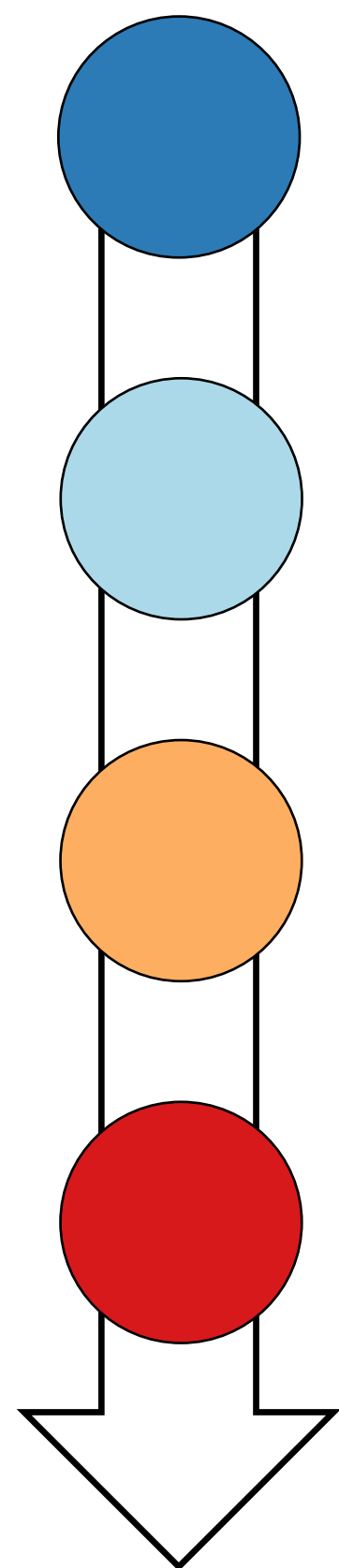
Roads with 35-40mph speed limits only make up 13 percent of roadway miles in Montgomery County, but 48 percent of severe and fatal collisions. Hit at 40mph, there is a 77 percent chance a pedestrian will have a severe or fatal injury. Faster driving generally makes everyone less safe.

Speed is a pedestrian safety issue.



Pedestrian Level of Comfort

Montgomery Planning has developed a tool to measure pedestrian comfort along all pathways and crossings countywide.



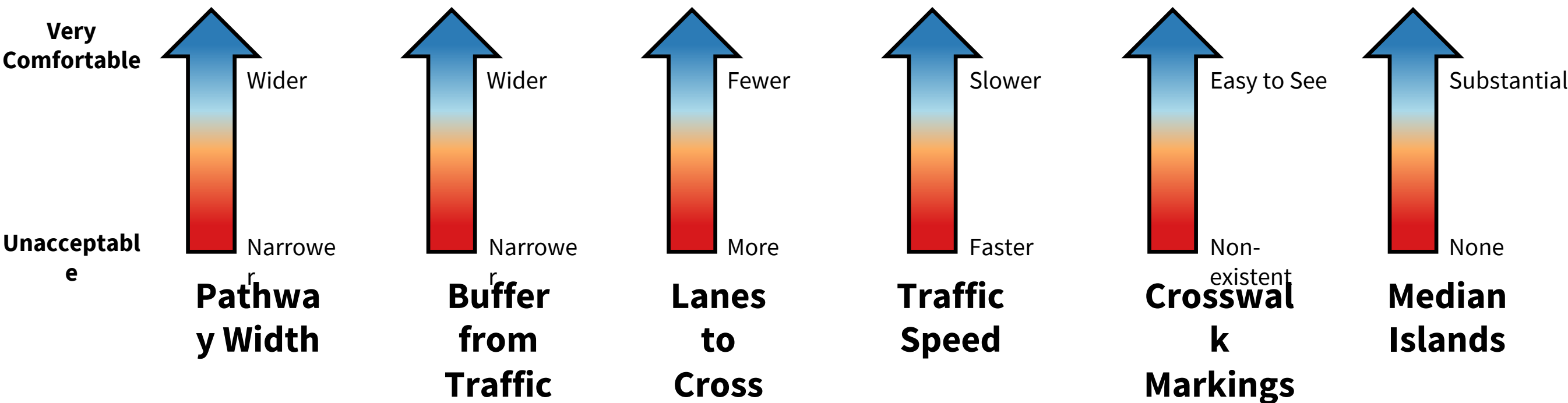
Very Comfortable: Using the pathway or crossing is an enjoyable experience for people of all ages and abilities. It meets current design standards and is in good condition.

Somewhat Comfortable: Using the pathway or crossing is generally an enjoyable experience for people of all ages and abilities. At some point, it may make sense to upgrade the pathway to meet current design standards.

Uncomfortable: Using the pathway or crossing is not a pleasant experience for most people due to vehicle speed, narrow buffers from traffic and / or narrow sidewalks. These issues should be addressed to improve comfort.

Unacceptable: Using the pathway or crossing is challenging for everyone. Basic elements like sidewalks may be missing completely or too narrow to be useful and pedestrians may be traveling very close to fast moving traffic. At crossings, streets may be several lanes wide, and crosswalk markings may be missing. These issues should be urgently addressed to improve comfort.

How Variables Affect Scoring





MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S **PEDESTRIAN** PLAN



Bethesda Kickoff Meeting
October 16, 2019

Eli Glazier
eli.glazier@montgomeryplanning.org

Agenda

- 1) What is the Pedestrian Plan?
- 2) Why Now?
- 3) Happening Now
- 4) What's Next?
- 5) Plan Schedule
- 6) Community Engagement
- 7) Open House Stations



1) What is the Pedestrian Plan?

The county's first Pedestrian Master Plan will make walking and rolling safer, more comfortable, more convenient and more accessible for pedestrians of all ages and abilities in all parts of the county.

All trips within a short distance should be realistic pedestrian trips.

1) What is the Pedestrian Plan?

**This is not just a plan for
sidewalks.**

1) What is the Pedestrian Plan?

 **Montgomery Planning**



1) What is the Pedestrian Plan?



MCDOT

Montgomery County DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

DGS

Delivering Great Service!

Montgomery Planning



DPS

2) Why Now?



**OUR PLAN TO ELIMINATE FATALITIES AND
SEVERE INJURIES ON OUR ROADS BY 2030**
TWO-YEAR ACTION PLAN • NOV 2017

2) Why Now?



The county has never planned for pedestrians and it shows.

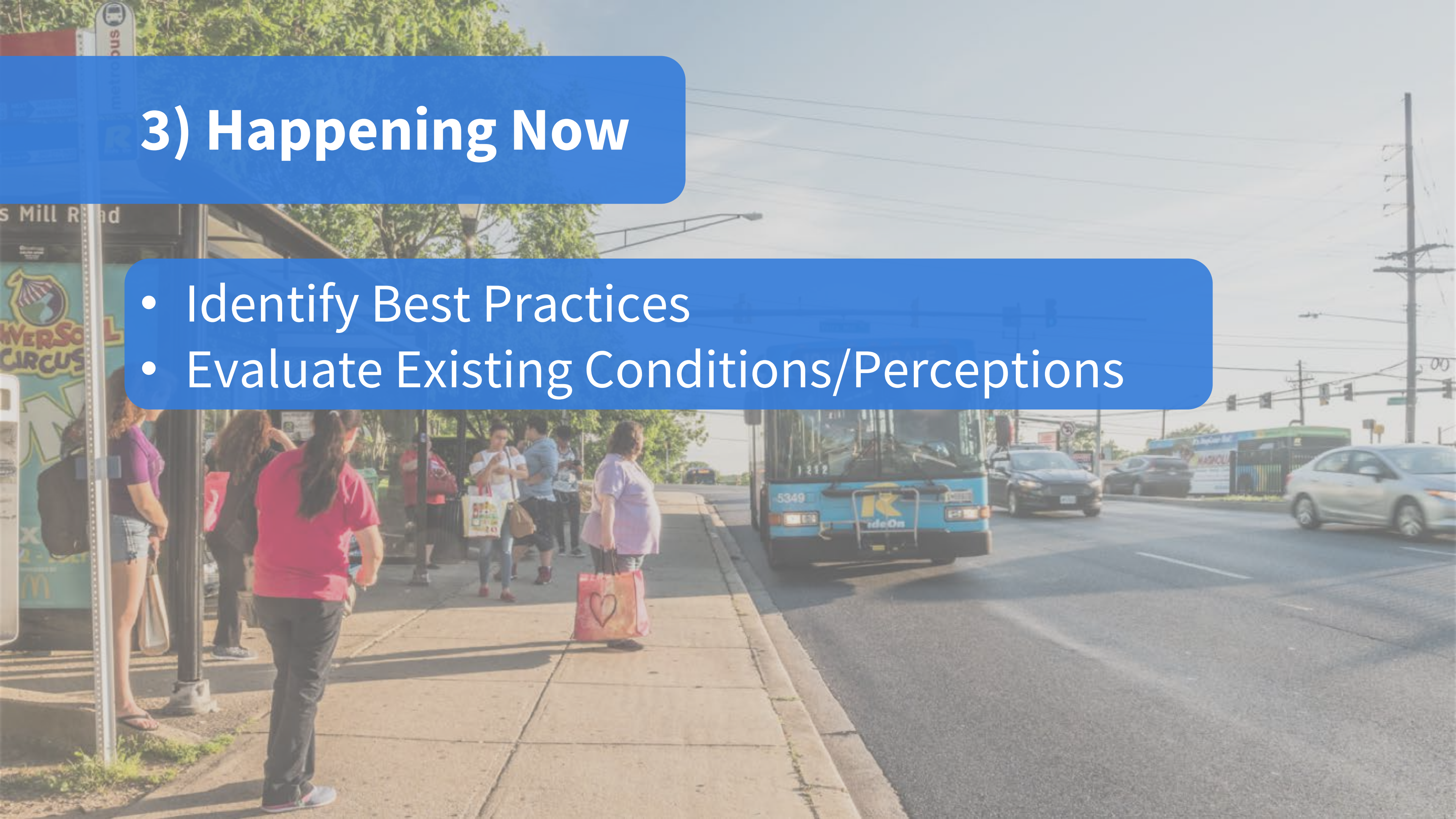
2) Why Now?

We have a lot of pedestrians here.



3) Happening Now

- Identify Best Practices
- Evaluate Existing Conditions/Perceptions



Identify Best Practices

- What are other counties, cities, states doing as part of similar plans?
- Planning Process
- Recommendations
- Engagement Strategies
- **What can we learn?**



Evaluate Existing Conditions/Perceptions

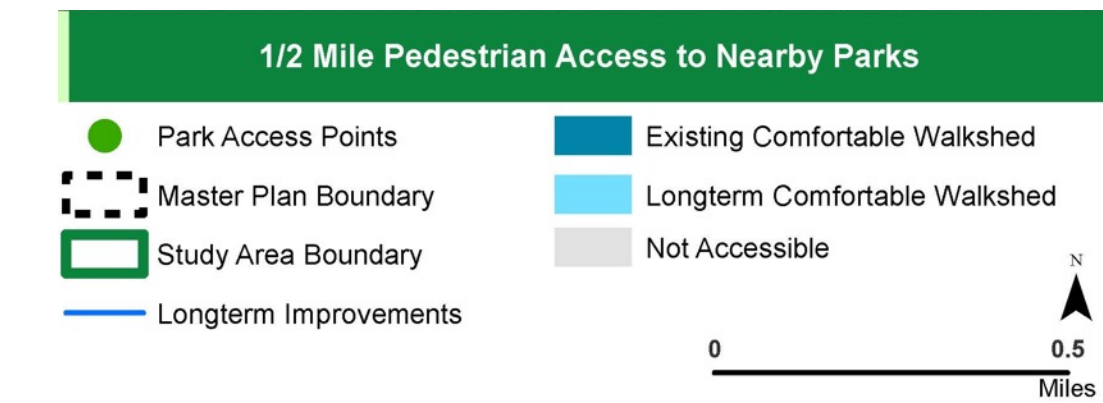
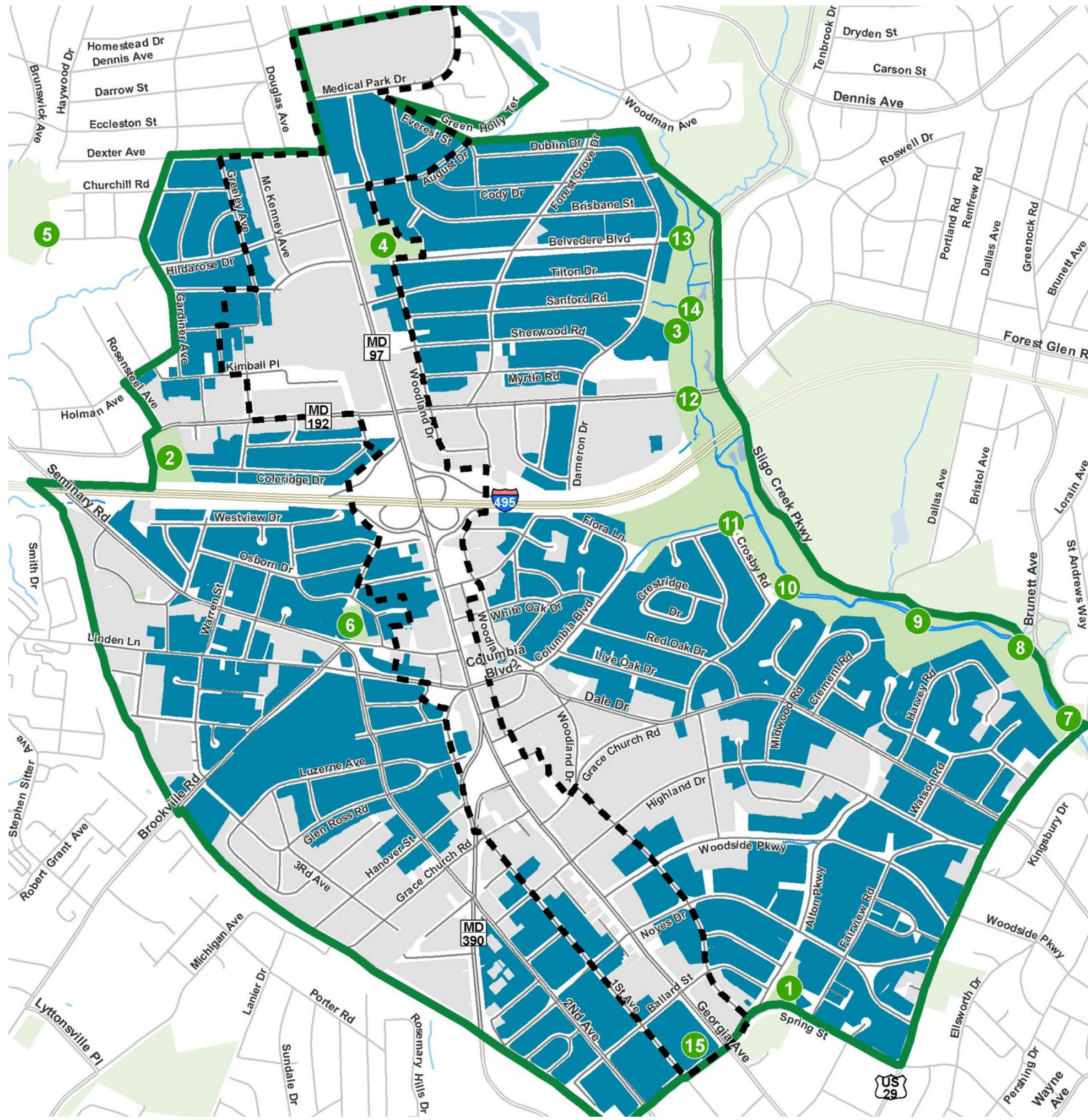
- What is the pedestrian environment like today in Montgomery County?
- Pedestrian Level of Comfort
- Crash Analysis
- Countywide Survey



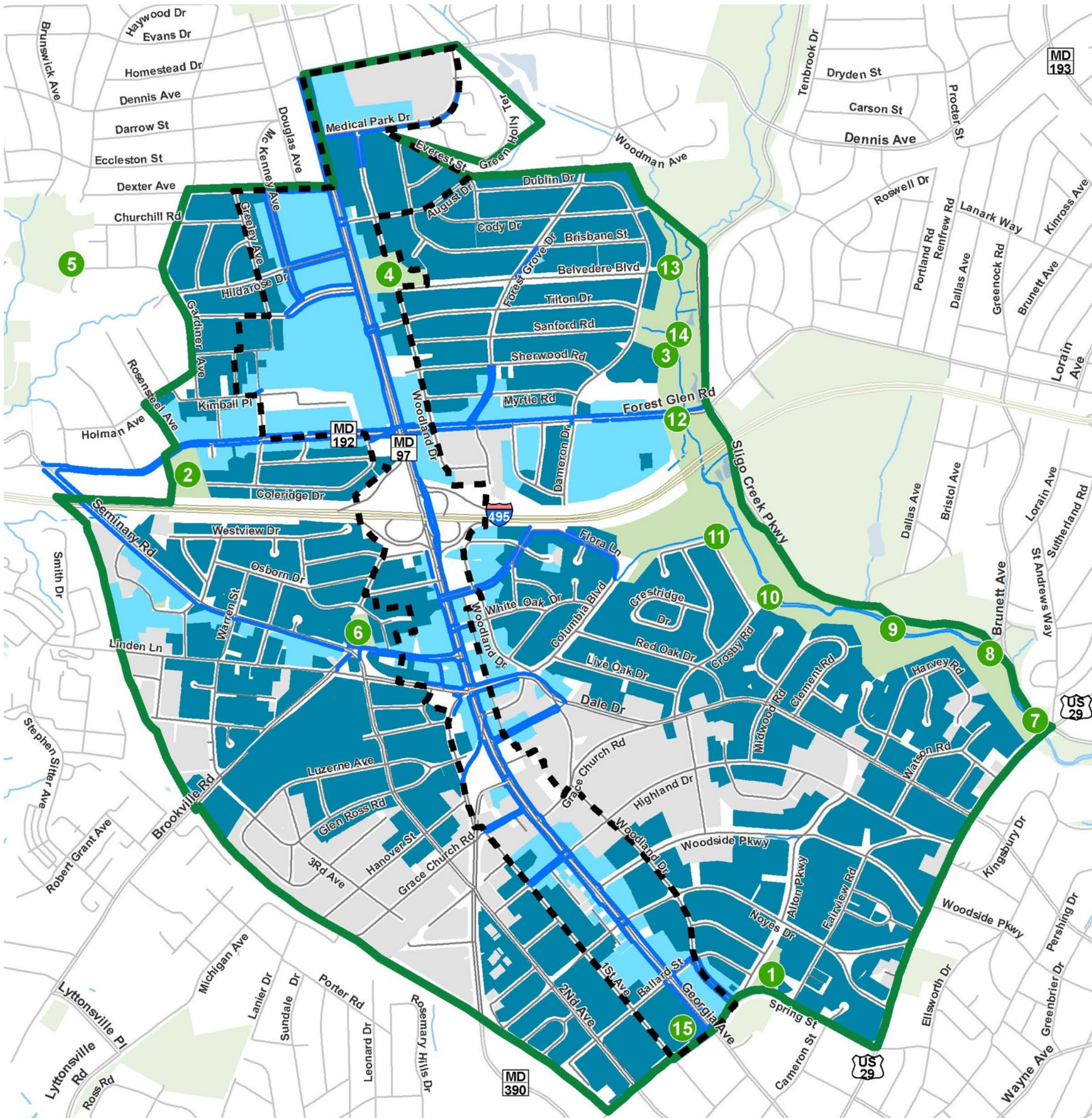
Pedestrian Level of Comfort



Mcatlas.org/pedplan



Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills
Existing Park Access



1/2 Mile Pedestrian Access to Nearby Parks

Park Access Points	Existing Comfortable Walkshed
Master Plan Boundary	Longterm Comfortable Walkshed
Study Area Boundary	Not Accessible
Longterm Improvements	

0 0.5 Miles

N

Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills
Improved Park Access

Evaluate Existing Conditions/Perceptions

- What is the pedestrian environment like today in Montgomery County?
- Pedestrian Level of Comfort
- Crash Analysis
- Countywide Survey



4) What's Next?

- Prioritizing New/Improved Pathways and Crossings
- Recommendations
 - Pedestrian-forward design
 - Policy
 - Programming



Prioritizing New/Improved Pathways and Crossings

- What pedestrian pathways and crossings are the most important to construct or improve?
- What factors should guide prioritization?



Pedestrian-Forward Design Recommendations

- Develop design and traffic operations approaches that support pedestrians related to:
 - Traffic-calming
 - Accessibility
 - Signal timing
 - Materials selection
 - Others



Policy Recommendations

- Work closely with County agencies to identify existing regulations/policies that affect pedestrians
- Recommend and adopt new/improved policies



Programming Recommendations

- Catalog existing pedestrian programming
- Recommend new programming, potentially including:
 - Traffic safety
 - Wayfinding
 - ADA compliance for businesses



5) Plan Schedule

Task	Completion Date
0: Outreach and Engagement	Ongoing
1: Planning Board Approved Scope of Work	September 2019
2: Identify Pedestrian Master Plan Best Practices	October 2019
3: Existing Conditions and Perceptions	January 2020
4: Pedestrian Infrastructure Prioritization	October 2020
5: Progressive Pedestrian Design Toolkit	October 2020
6: Pedestrian-Supportive Policies	October 2020
7: Pedestrian-Supportive Programming	October 2020
8: Planning Board Draft Plan	May 2021
9: Council Review and Approval	After June 2021

6) Community Engagement

- Website / e-Newsletter
- Community Advisory Group
- #WalkingHere



Website/ E-letter

- Sign up for e-letter to stay informed.

Montgomeryplanning.org/walkinghere

Pedestrian Master Plan

Planning

Transportation

Pedestrian Planning

Pedestrian Master Plan



The Montgomery County Planning Department is developing a comprehensive plan to improve pedestrian conditions countywide. The plan will address issues for other modes of transportation through...

This plan will be comprehensive. In addition...

October 2019

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Hello Pedestrians!

Our project kickoff meetings are just around the corner.

These meetings will be great opportunities to learn more about the plan and to provide important input on issues that planners should research and make recommendations about. Your comments and suggestions will help make the plan better and Montgomery County a more pedestrian-friendly place.

As a reminder, meeting dates and locations are below. You do not need to RSVP, but it is encouraged.

All meetings will cover the same material, so feel free to attend the most convenient one for your schedule.

We have added additional meetings in November in Wheaton at the new public library and in Germantown at the Upcounty Regional Services Center.

Community Advisory Group

- Provide feedback on recommendations
- Application posted online in November



#WalkingHere



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 - Through the project website form
 - With a comment card

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7) Open House Stations

- Existing Conditions
- Pedestrian Level of Comfort Video Map
- Clothesline Comments
- #WalkingHere Slideshow





Thank You!

Eli Glazier

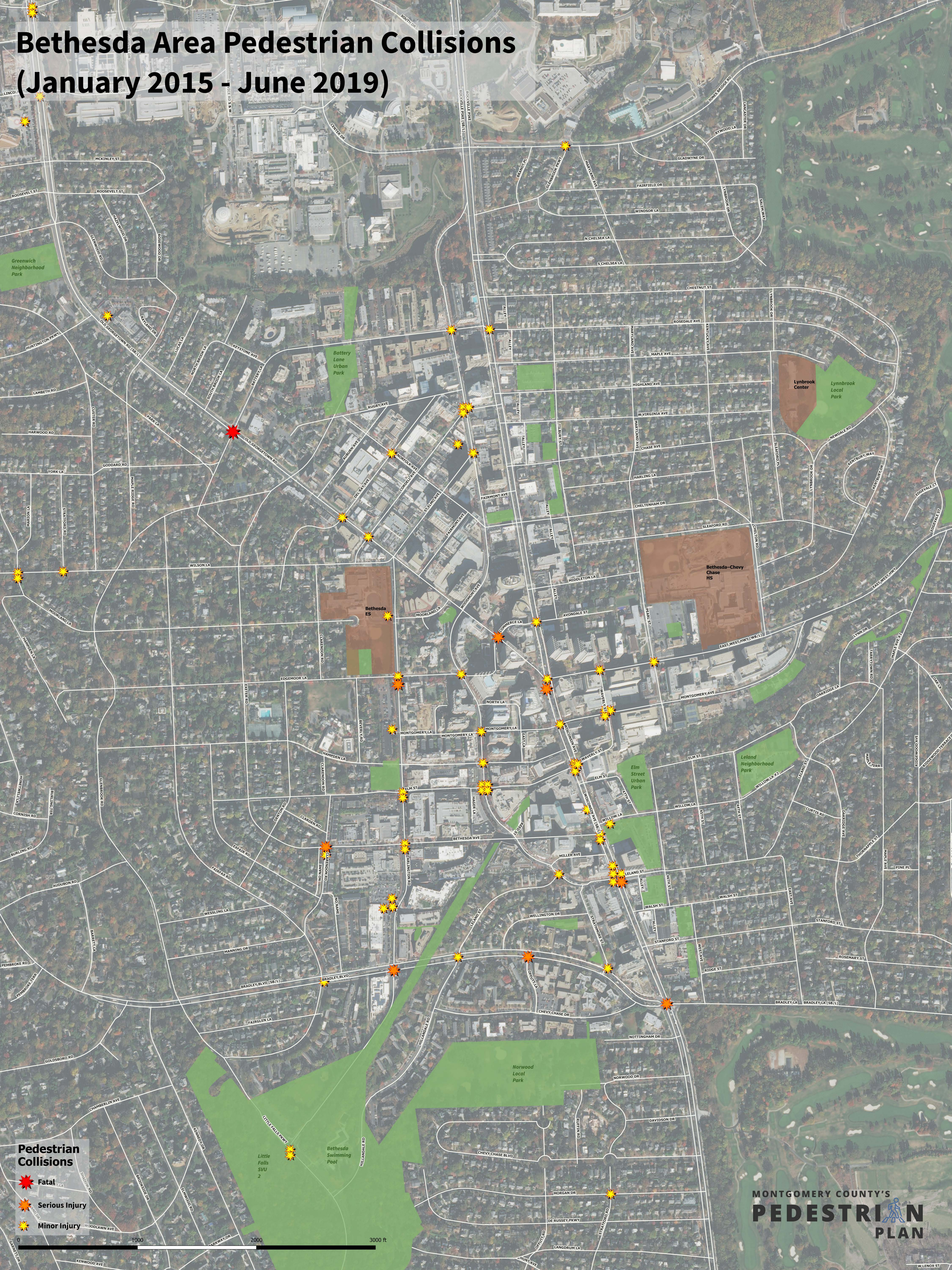
eli.glazier@
montgomeryplanning.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S
PEDESTRIAN
PLAN



Bethesda Area Pedestrian Collisions

(January 2015 - June 2019)



Pedestrian Collisions

- Fatal
- Serious Injury
- Minor Injury