

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S **PEDESTRIAN** **PLAN**



**Advisory Group Meeting**  
**February 27, 2020**

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# Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Advisory Group Responsibilities
- 3) What is the Pedestrian Plan?
- 4) Happening Now
- 5) What's Next?
- 6) Draft Goals and Objectives Discussion
- 7) Ideas for Future Study
- 8) Public Comment
- 9) Next Steps





# Introductions

## 2) Advisory Group Responsibilities

- Passionate about pedestrian issues
- Excited to make Montgomery County better
- Thoughtful, respectful discussion with colleagues
- Open to sharing plan information with neighbors and communicating local concerns back to the group

### 3) 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.

### **3) What is the Pedestrian Plan?**

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



### 3) What is the Pedestrian Plan?



**MCDOT**

Montgomery County DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

**DGS**

*Delivering Great Service!*

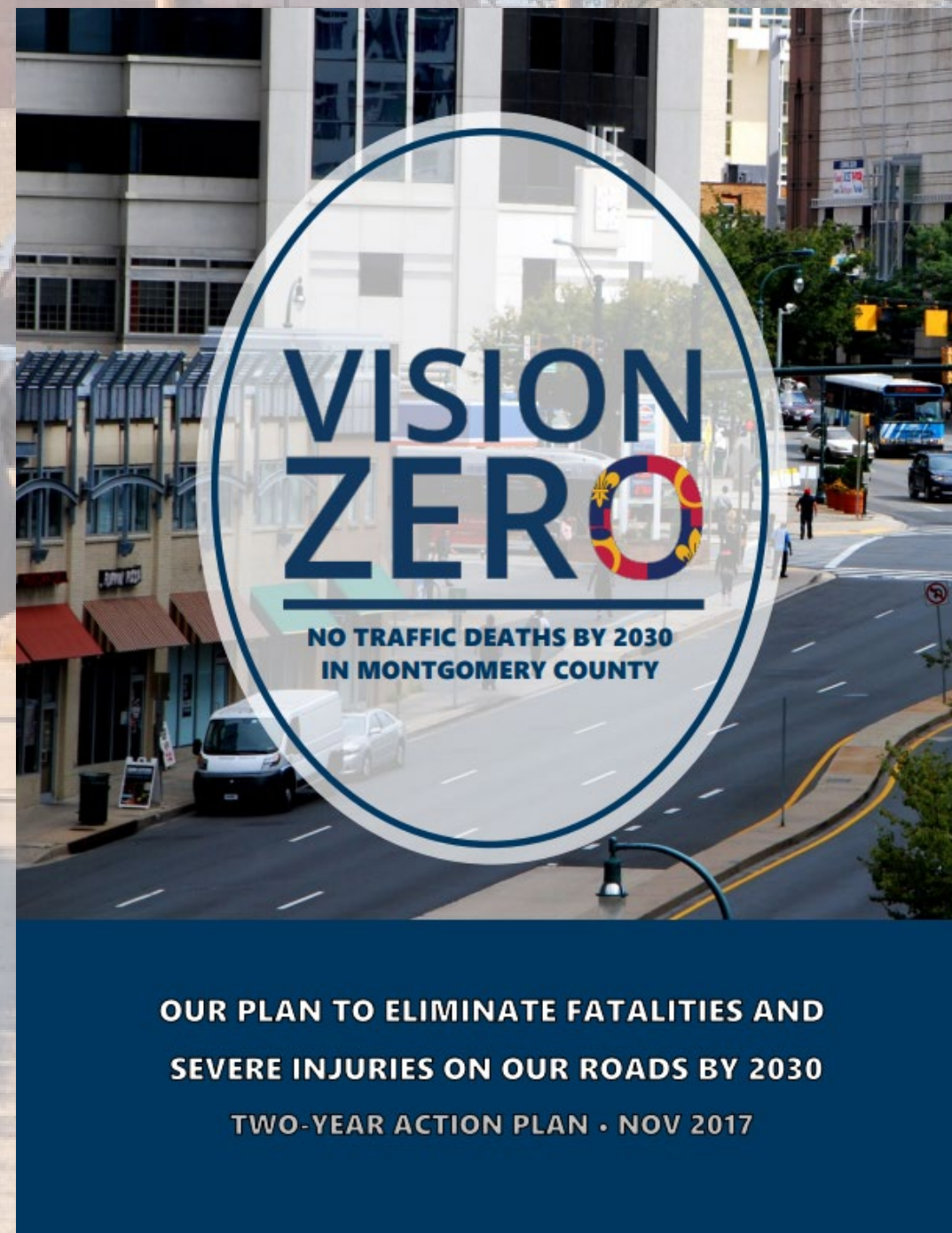
**Montgomery Planning**



**DPS**



# 3) What is the Pedestrian Plan?



## Montgomery County, Maryland Climate Protection Plan

Prepared by the  
Montgomery County Sustainability Working Group

January 2009





## 2) Why Now?

**The county has never planned for pedestrians and it shows.**



## 2) Why Now?



**Pete Piringer**  
@mcfrsPIO

Update - Viers Mill Rd & Newport Mill Rd,  
[@MCFRS\\_EMIHS](#) evaluating minor NLT injury,  
apparently pedestrian struck by side mirror of passing  
vehicle



**Pete Piringer** @mcfrsPIO · 3h

Viers Mill Road and Newport Mill Road, pedestrian struck

7:08 AM · Feb 11, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

2 Retweets 4 Likes



The county has never planned for pedestrians and it shows.



## 2) Why Now?



**We have a lot of pedestrians here.**



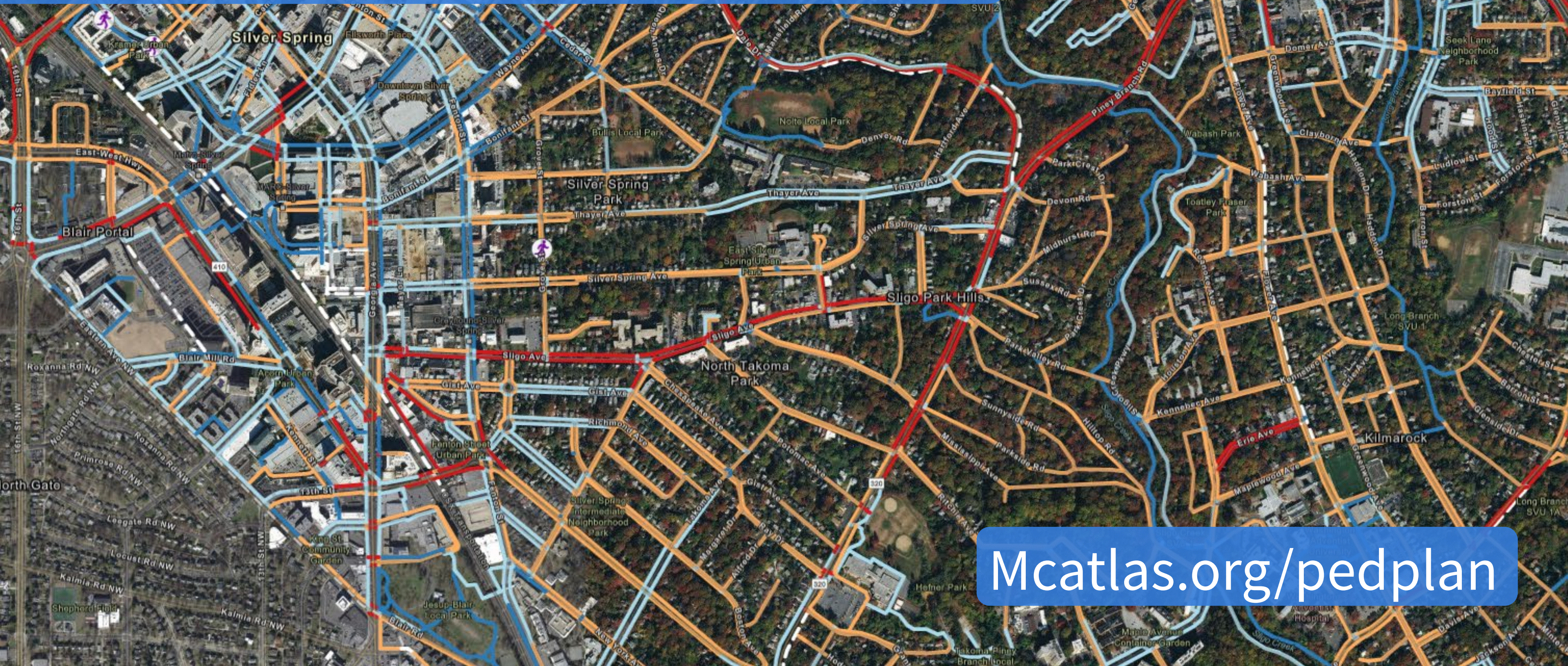
## 4) Happening Now

- Pedestrian Planning Best Practices Report
- Pedestrian Level of Comfort
- Predictive Safety Analysis
- Student Travel Tally





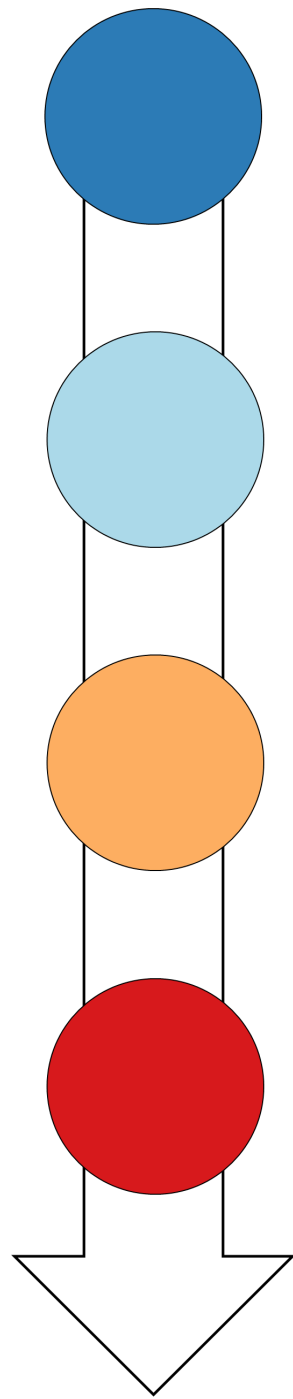
# Pedestrian Level of Comfort



[Mcatlas.org/pedplan](https://Mcatlas.org/pedplan)



# Pedestrian Level of Comfort Scoring



**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.

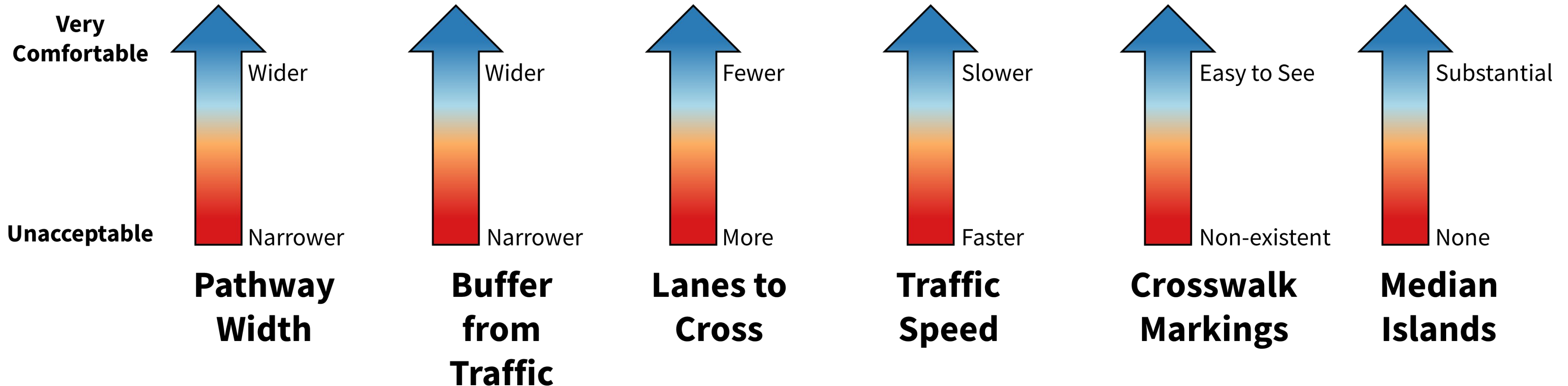
**Somewhat Comfortable:** Using the pathway or crossing is generally an enjoyable experience for people of all ages and abilities. At some point, it may make sense to upgrade the pathway to meet current design standards.

**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.

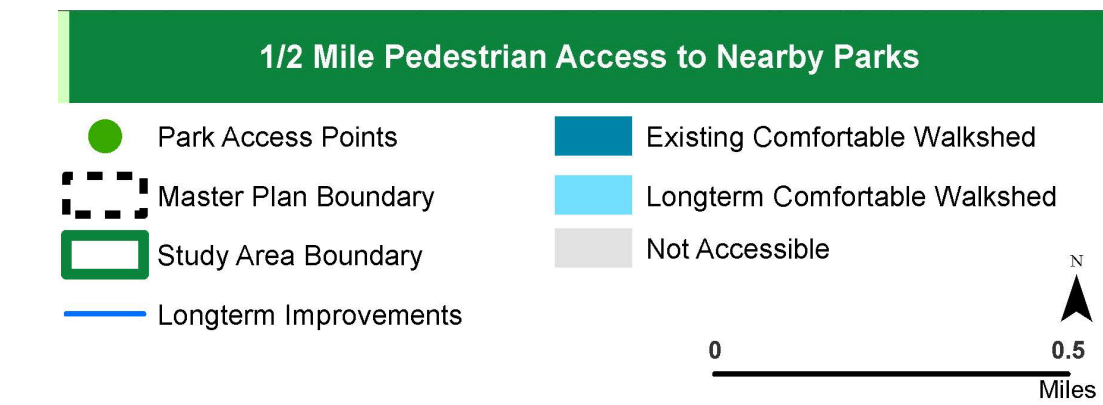
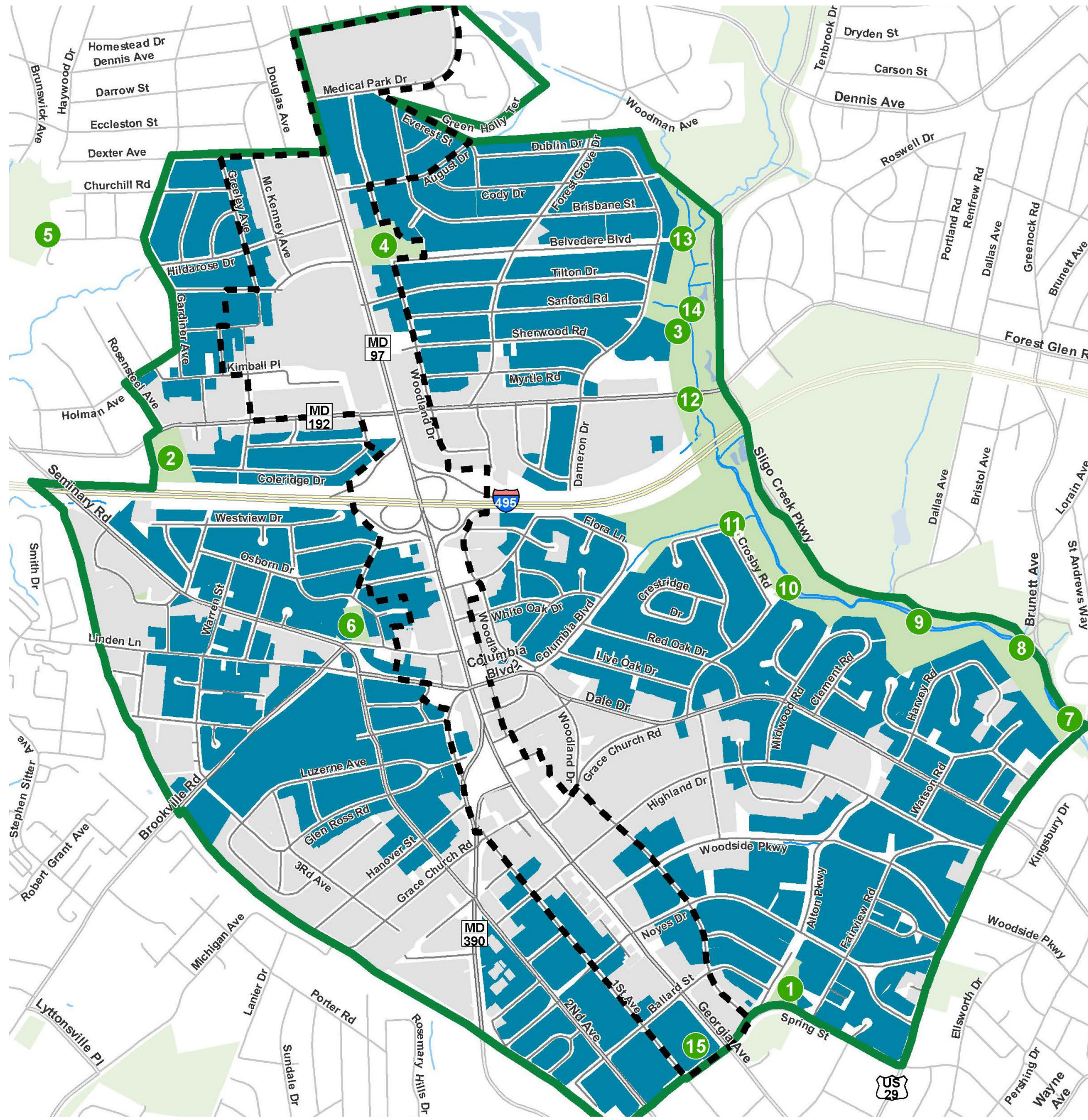
**Unacceptable:** Using the pathway or crossing is challenging for everyone. Basic elements like sidewalks may be missing completely or too narrow to be useful and pedestrians may be traveling very close to fast moving traffic. At crossings, streets may be several lanes wide, and crosswalk markings may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



# How Variables Affect Scoring

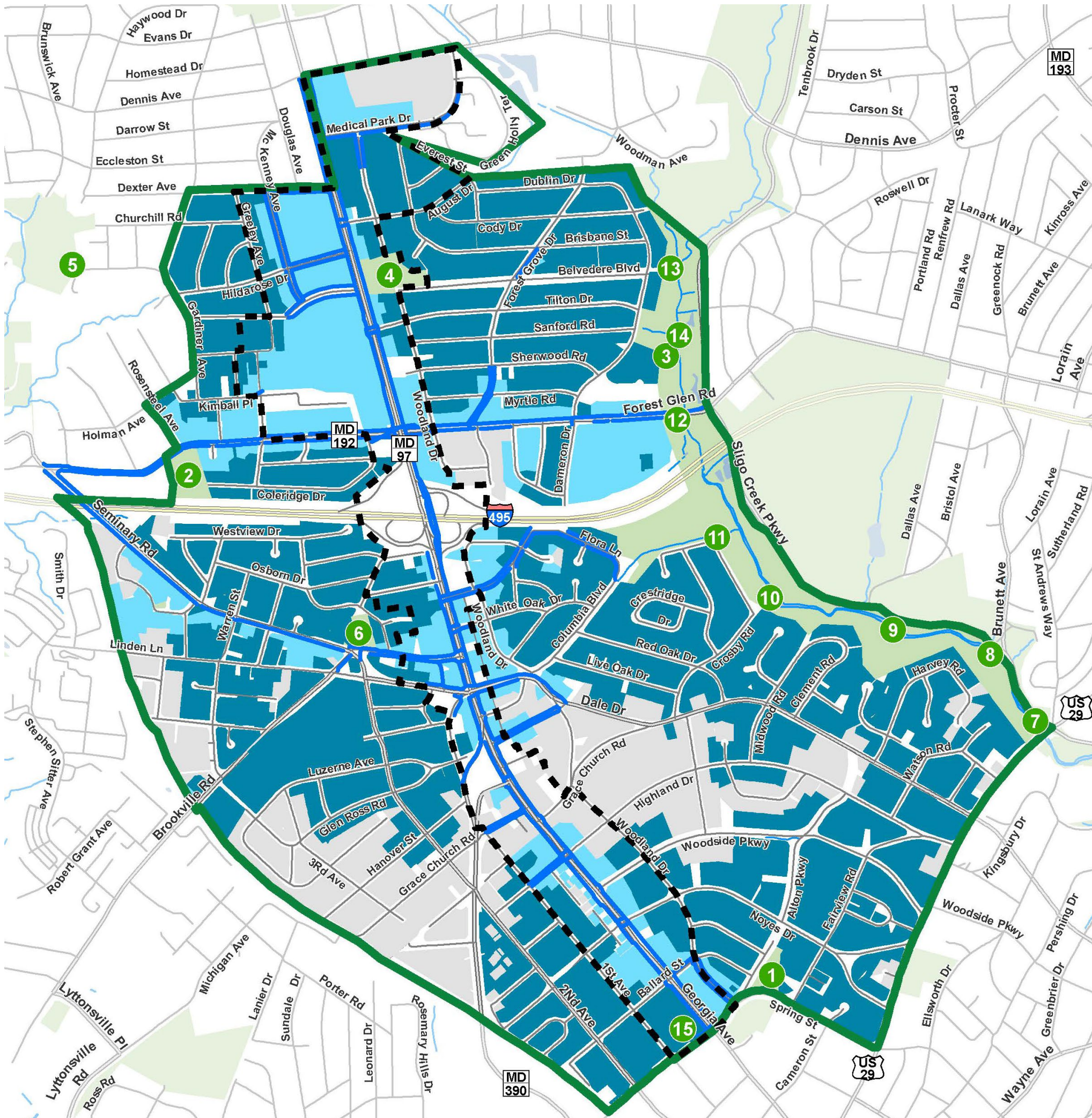






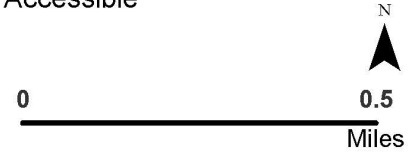
Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills  
Existing Park Access





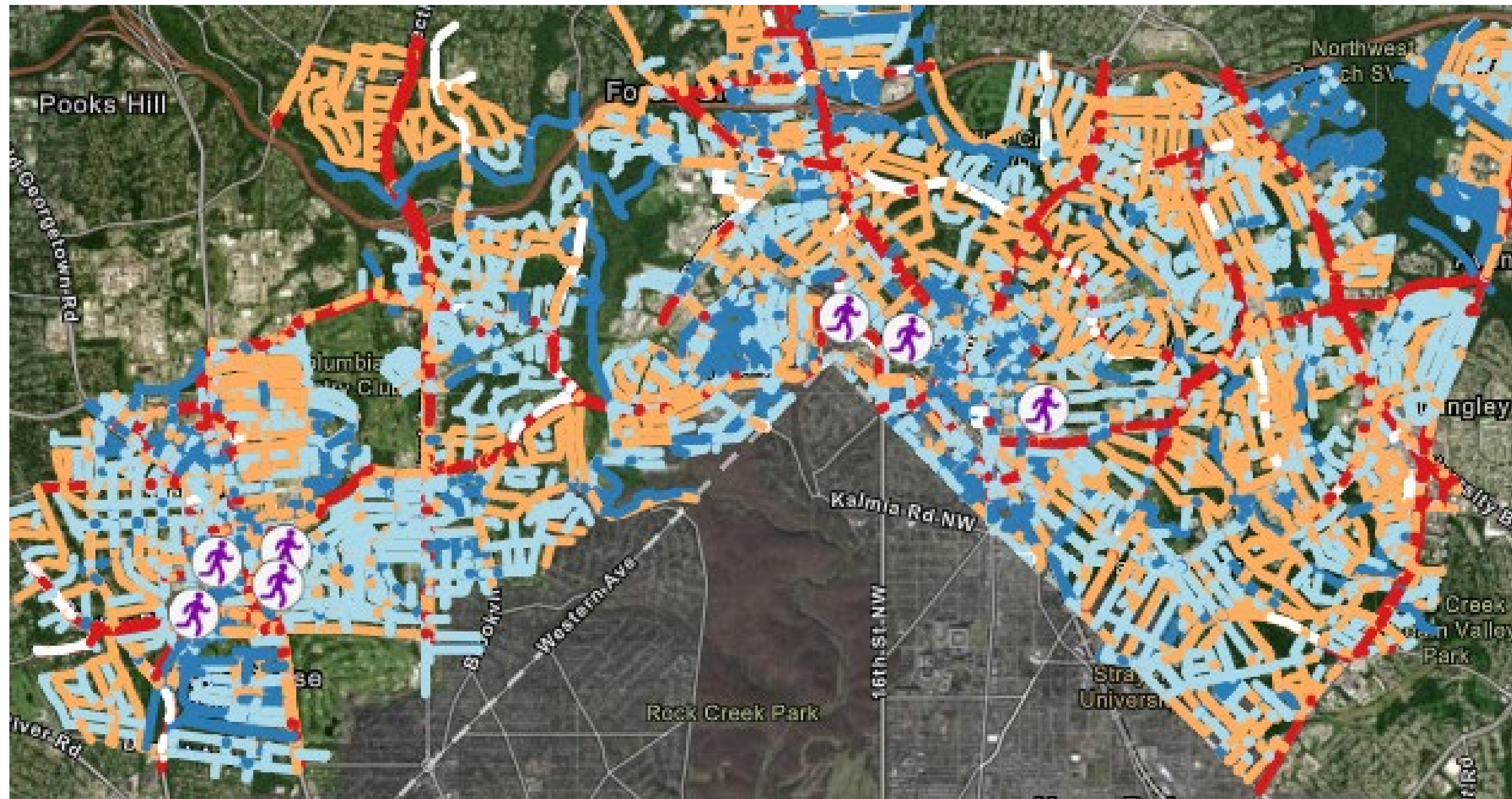
### 1/2 Mile Pedestrian Access to Nearby Parks

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



Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills  
Improved Park Access





# Purple Line Pedestrian Access Analysis



# Predictive Safety Analysis

- Key part of Vision Zero approach
- Help identify dangerous locations *before crashes occur*
- Prioritize hotspots
- Fix many similar locations at same time



# Student Travel Tally

- Where/how many students are walking to/from school
- Nearly 74,000 responses to date
- Understand where pedestrian safety investments increase student walking vs. new programming and incentives



## 5) What's Next?

- Outside Assistance
- Countywide Survey
- Policy/Design Best Practices
- Interagency Coordination





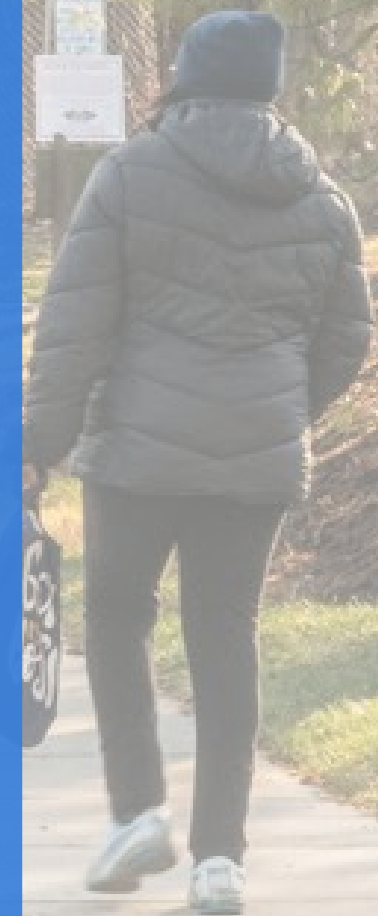
## 6) Draft Goals and Objectives Discussion

- How we measure plan success
- **Goal:** A broad, aspirational statement about impact over the long-term
- **Objective:** A more specific, measurable statement that identifies how a goal can be achieved



# Create a Comfortable, Connected, Convenient Pedestrian Network

- Implement TBD # of pedestrian-forward improvements annually
- Increase the % of the walking network that is comfortable to TBD %
- Increase tree canopy along pedestrian pathways by TBD % annually





# Create a Comfortable, Connected, Convenient Pedestrian Network

- On priority corridors, increase the amount of public seating by TBD % annually
- Remove TBD # of obstructions from pedestrian pathways annually
- TBD % of sidewalks and crossings in poor repair will be improved annually
- TBD % of potential pedestrian trips are able to be accomplished using a comfortable pedestrian network



# Build an Equitable and Just Pedestrian Network

- All pedestrian pathways that are comfortable will be accessible
- Conduct TBD # of mobility and orientation specialist sessions annually for those unable to afford them
- The % of fatal and severe injury pedestrian crashes in equity areas should be the same or less than the County overall
- The ratio of potential trips that can be made on a comfortable pedestrian network in equity areas will be the same or greater than the County overall



# Enhance Pedestrian Safety in Montgomery County

- By 2030, eliminate pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries
- TBD % of respondents perceive the pedestrian environment as safe
- The number of expected pedestrian crashes should be reduced by TBD% annually





# Increase Walking Rates in Montgomery County

- TBD % of all trips will be accomplished by walking
- TBD % of commute trips will be accomplished by walking or walking and transit
- TBD % of people walk to access rail stations during AM commute
- TBD % of public (elementary, middle, high) school students walk to school



## **7) Ideas for Future Study**

**What issues or topics should staff consider beyond what has been discussed today?**



## 8) Public Comment





## 9) Next Steps

### Project Team

- Continue adding to Pedestrian Level of Comfort Map
- Finalize best practices and survey consultants
- Continue interagency coordination
- Scheduling walks with Advisory Group members



## 9) Next Steps

### **Advisory Group**

- Share information about the plan with neighbors
- Communicate with project team about concerns and exciting ideas
- Be pedestrians in Montgomery County!





# Thank You!

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montgomeryplanning.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S  
**PEDESTRIAN**  
**PLAN**

