

2017 Harford County Priority Letter FY18 Request



Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive

BARRY GLASSMAN
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE



BILLY BONIFACE
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Pete K. Rahn
Secretary of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Harford County Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Rahn:

Harford County has established a list of transportation priorities that focuses on immediate projects. These projects are of various modes and are consistent with previous requests, long-term goals of the Maryland Transportation Plan, and regional and local plans. The needs of the County's three municipalities are reflected in these priority projects.

A total of 14 projects are listed and prioritized. Separately, projects are ranked according to their importance to the County's transportation network and in which order we request funding from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). This list reflects an update of the County's previous FY 2017 Priority Letter dated March 7, 2016. Projects represent the highest priorities based on four specific categories.

Capacity

Roadway improvements are important for the reduction of congestion. Congested corridors lead to higher accident rates, reduce the efficiency of the road network and negatively impact the economy. Strategic investment in modern transportation facilities produces many long term benefits. These benefits include traffic congestion relief, improved access to goods and services, better system reliability, increased economic development and improved air quality. Our specific Capacity projects are listed below:

- *US 1 Bypass @ MD 24 Interchange:* Harford County proposes that MDOT program funding to design and construct a second left turn lane onto MD 24 from US 1 Bypass – as identified in the 2015 Business US 1/MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study Final Report.

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The Honorable Pete K. Rahn

Harford County Transportation Priorities

- *MD 24 Northbound Lane:* This proposal is to construct a third northbound travel lane on MD 24 from the existing three lane section south of Singer Road to north of Plumtree Road.
- *MD 543 @ I-95 Southbound Ramp:* Improvements to this interchange includes restriping northbound MD 543 to provide a second left turn lane with a receiving lane on the I-95 southbound ramp.
- *MD 22 Eastbound HOV Lane:* This roadway improvement converts the existing shoulder between MD 132 and the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) gate to handle general purpose traffic while restricting the left lane to high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) only. This lane configuration would occur Monday through Friday during the AM peak between the hours of 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM only.

Safety/Operations

Harford County is committed to enhancing the safety and operations on our roadways and intersections. The benefit of improved safety and operations included better flow of traffic, improved travel times, reduced crashes, and fewer vehicle conflicts. Our specific Safety/Operations projects are listed below:

- *MD 23 @ Grafton Shop Road Roundabout:* Numerous crashes have occurred at this intersection over the years. Therefore, Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to design and construct a roundabout to improve the overall safety at this intersection.
- *MD 7 @ Stepney Road Roundabout:* Harford County recommends that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct a roundabout to improve the safety and flow of traffic through this intersection.
- *Business US 1/MD 22 Access Management:* Consolidating access points and restricting turn movements along the Business US 1/MD 22 corridor can improve the movement of traffic, improve safety, and reduce vehicle conflict points.
- *US 40 @ Otsego Street/Ohio Street Intersection:* This intersection is significantly impacted by the domino effect of congestion on I-95. This improvement includes intersection upgrades and proposes providing the same EZ Pass Commuter option on Tydings Bridge which is currently available on the Hatem Bridge.

- *MD 23 @ MD 146/Madonna Road Roundabout*: Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct a roundabout at this intersection.

Transit

Transit ridership can be increased when citizens have safe and convenient access and when wait times are reduced. Improving Park-and-Ride facilities are essential for encouraging shifts to transit, which reduces congestion and air pollution. Our specific Transit projects are listed below:

- *Aberdeen Train Station Improvements (Exterior and Parking)*: Additional parking at the Aberdeen Train Station has been anticipated for several years. This project includes improvements to the exterior of the station, parking and sidewalk improvements, and roadway improvements on East Bel Air Avenue, Taft Street and APG Road.
- *MD 924 Park and Ride Lot*: Establish an intermodal Park and Ride Lot with transit-user friendly amenities included within the MD 924 corridor between Bel Air South Parkway and Woodsdale Road.
- *Aberdeen MARC Train Station TOD*: Harford County requests that MDOT fund the environmental and engineering analysis of underground conditions for the transition of the existing underpass into the enhanced Station Square.

Bicycle/Pedestrian/Shared Use Path

Non-motorized connections enhance mobility and reduce congestion. Connecting neighborhoods and local destinations with sidewalks and pathways reduces vehicle miles traveled, alleviates congestion, improves safety and promotes active lifestyles. Our specific Bicycle/Pedestrian/Shared Use Path projects are listed below:

- *MD 22 bicycle and pedestrian upgrades*: This improvement adds all necessary traffic control striping and signage within the existing right-of-way along the MD 22 corridor as identified within the MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study.
- *MD 24 Shared Use Path*: This project extends the existing shared use path south to Red Pump Road and north to MD 23.

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We would like to thank MDOT for the continued support it has provided while meeting the transportation needs of the area. Construction on Phase II of the US 40/MD 7/MD 159 intersection, the MD 22/MD 132 intersection, the MD 22/Beards Hill Road intersection, the MD 22/MD 462 intersection, and the MD 755 Streetscape is underway. Engineering is underway for the MD 24 project through Rocks State Park. In addition, construction is anticipated this year for the MD 22/Thomas Run Road/Schucks Road intersection.

If you have any questions or need any clarifications about our list of priorities please do not hesitate to contact us.

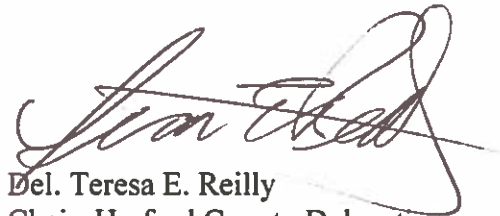
Cordially,



Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive



Richard C. Slutzky
Harford County Council President



Del. Teresa E. Reilly
Chair, Harford County Delegation

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The Honorable Pete K. Rahn

Harford County Transportation Priorities

CC: Honorable J.B. Jennings
Honorable Robert G. Cassilly
Honorable H. Wayne Norman, Jr.
Honorable Richard K. Impallaria
Honorable Patrick L. McDonough
Honorable Kathy Szeliga
Honorable Mary Ann Lisanti
Honorable Susan K. McComas
Honorable Glen Glass
Honorable Andrew Cassilly
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Jeffery M. Stratmeyer, Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works
Cheryl L. Banigan, Chief, Transportation and Traffic Engineering, Department of Public Works
Bradley F. Killian, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Jenny B. King, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Anthony S. McClune, Chief, Current Planning, Department of Planning and Zoning
Shane P. Grimm, Chief, Long Range Planning, Department of Planning and Zoning
Alex A. Rawls, Transportation Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development, City of Aberdeen
Ben Martorana, Director of Planning, City of Havre de Grace
Kevin Small, Director of Planning, Town of Bel Air



PRIORITY # 1

US 1 BYPASS @ MD 24 INTERCHANGE

CATEGORY - CAPACITY

ESTIMATED COST - \$2,000,000



There is currently a single left turn lane from southbound US 1 onto MD 24 at this half signalized intersection which backs up into the high speed southbound through lane. In lieu of the full interchange currently proposed for the long term improvement, Harford County proposes that MDOT program funding to design and construct a second left turn lane onto MD 24 from US 1 Bypass to increase capacity and eliminate this very hazardous condition. This improvement is the County's number one priority.

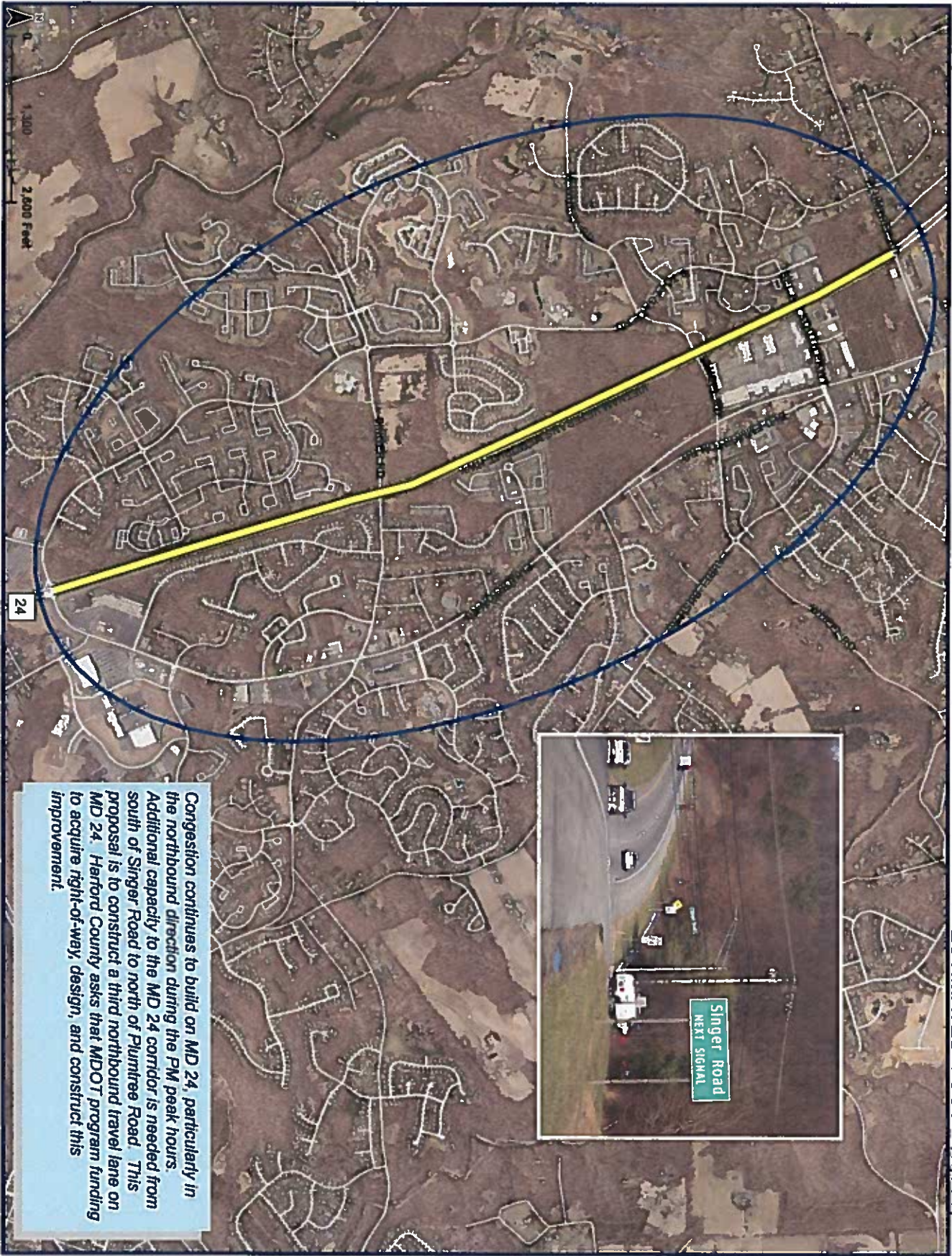


PRIORITY # 2

MD 24 NORTHBOUND LANE

CATEGORY - CAPACITY

ESTIMATED COST - \$2,500,000



Congestion continues to build on MD 24, particularly in the northbound direction during the PM peak hours. Additional capacity to the MD 24 corridor is needed from south of Slinger Road to north of Plumtree Road. This proposal is to construct a third northbound travel lane on MD 24. Harford County asks that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct this improvement.



PRIORITY # 3

I-95 @ MD 543 INTERCHANGE

CATEGORY - CAPACITY

ESTIMATED COST - \$500,000



Heavy traffic builds on MD 543 from the signalized ramp to I-95 back through the MD 543 @ MD 7 intersection. This program funding to design and construct improvements to this interchange that includes restriping northbound MD 543 to provide a second left turn lane with a receiving lane on the I-95 southbound ramp. This improvement requires minor widening and restriping within the right-of-way.

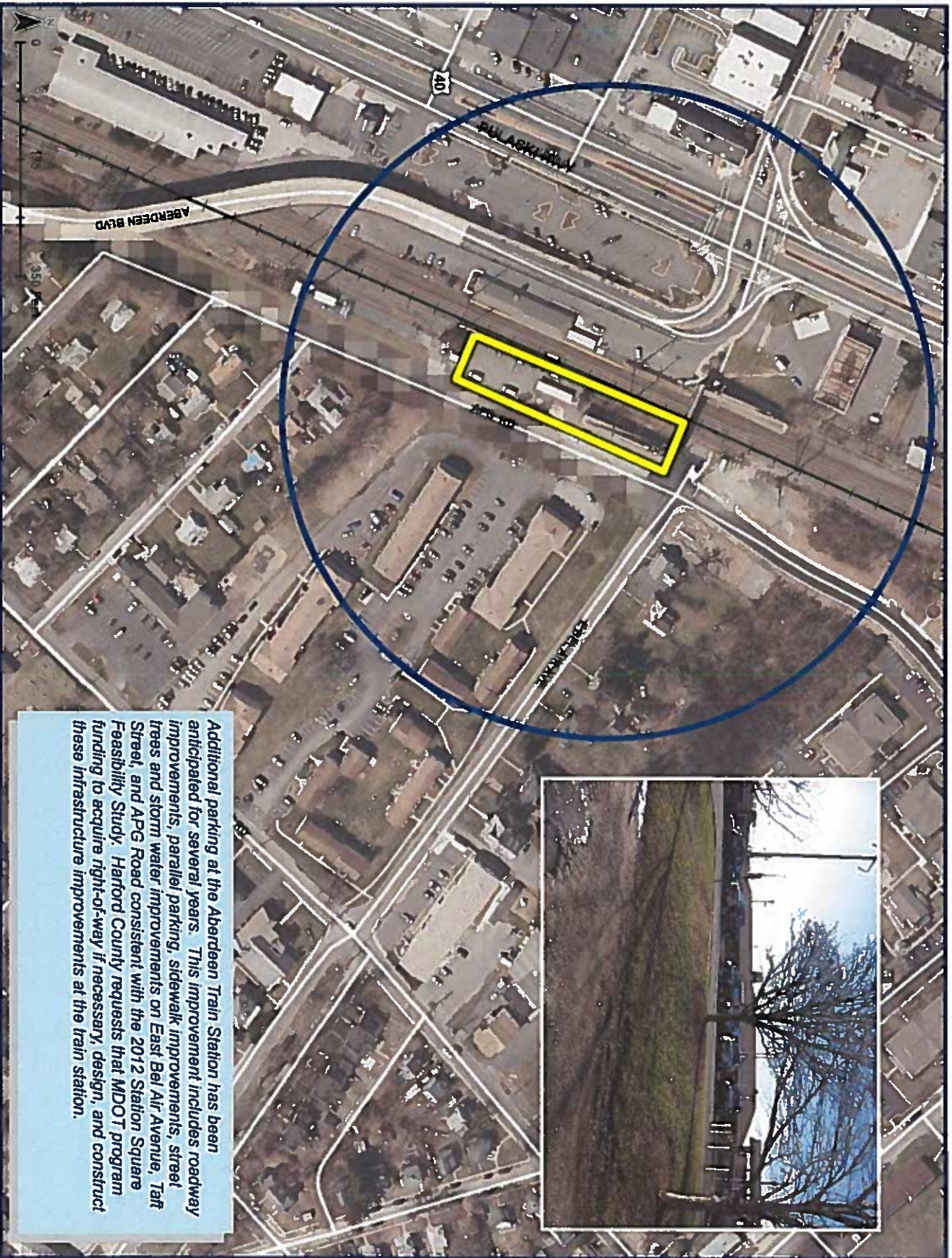


PRIORITY # 4

ABERDEEN TRAIN STATION

CATEGORY - TRANSIT

ESTIMATED COST - \$2,600,000



Additional parking at the Aberdeen Train Station has been anticipated for several years. This improvement includes roadway improvements, parallel parking, sidewalk improvements, street trees and storm water improvements on East Bel Air Avenue, Taft Street, and APG Road consistent with the 2012 Station Square Feasibility Study. Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way if necessary, design, and construct these infrastructure improvements at the train station.

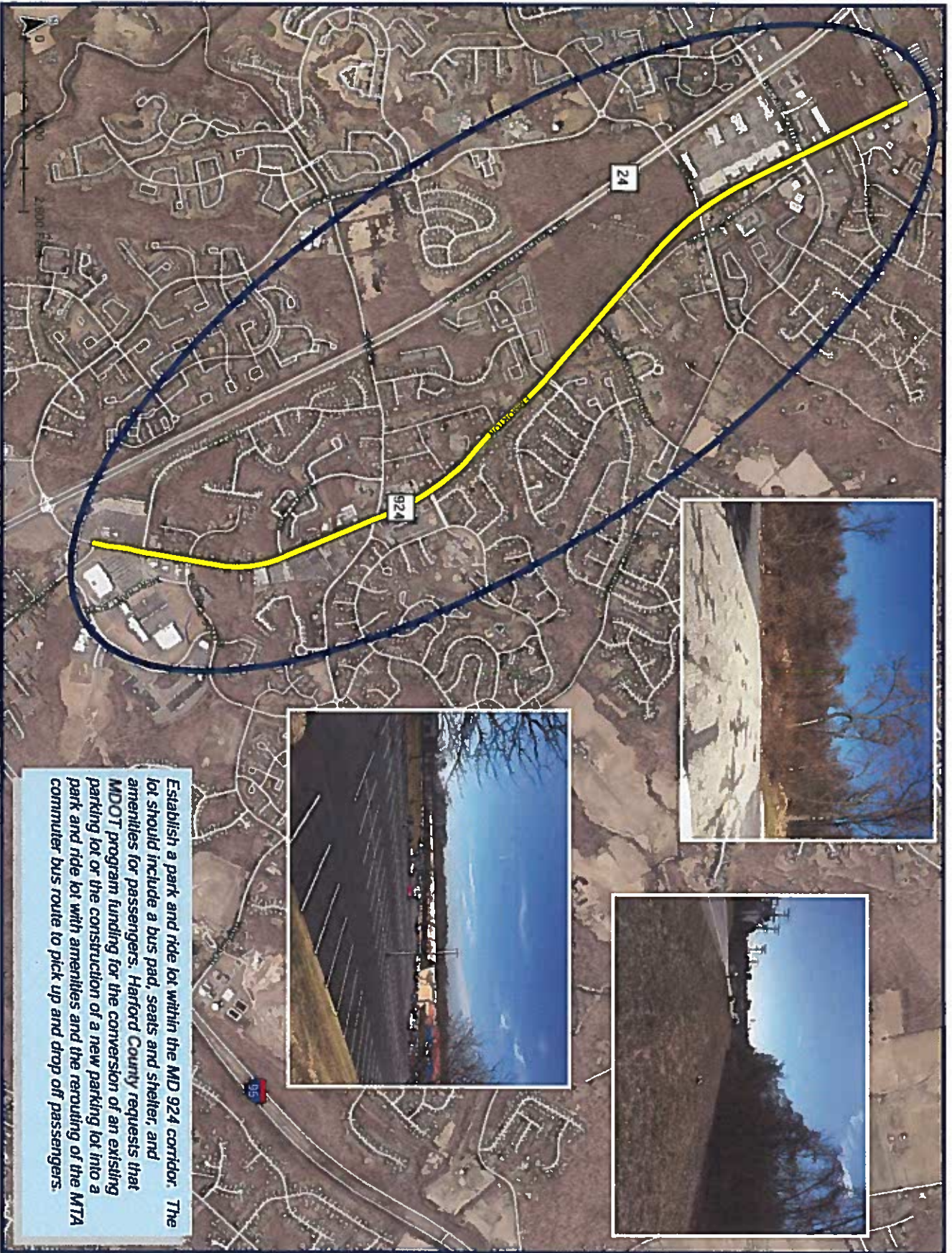


PRIORITY # 5

MD 924 PARK AND RIDE LOT

CATEGORY - TRANSIT

ESTIMATED COST - \$500,000



Establish a park and ride lot within the MD 924 corridor. The lot should include a bus pad, seats and shelter, and amenities for passengers. Harford County requests that MDOT program funding for the conversion of an existing parking lot or the construction of a new parking lot into a park and ride lot with amenities and the rerouting of the MTA commuter bus route to pick up and drop off passengers.

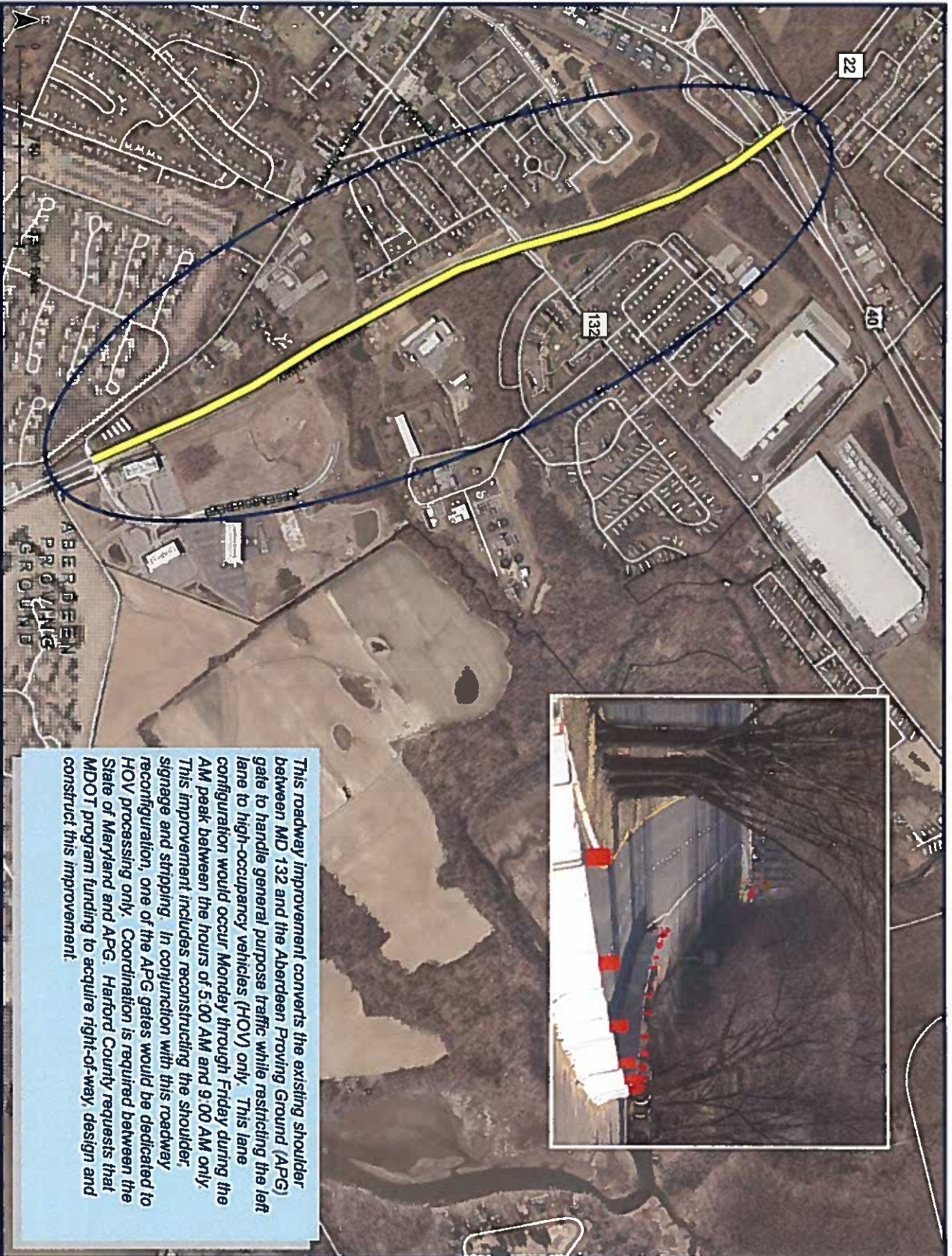


PRIORITY # 6

MD 22 EASTBOUND HOV LANE TO APG

CATEGORY - CAPACITY

ESTIMATED COST - \$500,000



This roadway improvement converts the existing shoulder between MD 132 and the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) gate to handle general purpose traffic while restricting the left lane to high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) only. This lane configuration would occur Monday through Friday during the AM peak between the hours of 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM only. This improvement includes reconstructing the shoulder, signage and striping. In conjunction with this roadway reconstruction, one of the APG gates would be dedicated to HOV processing only. Coordination is required between the State of Maryland and APG. Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design and construct this improvement.

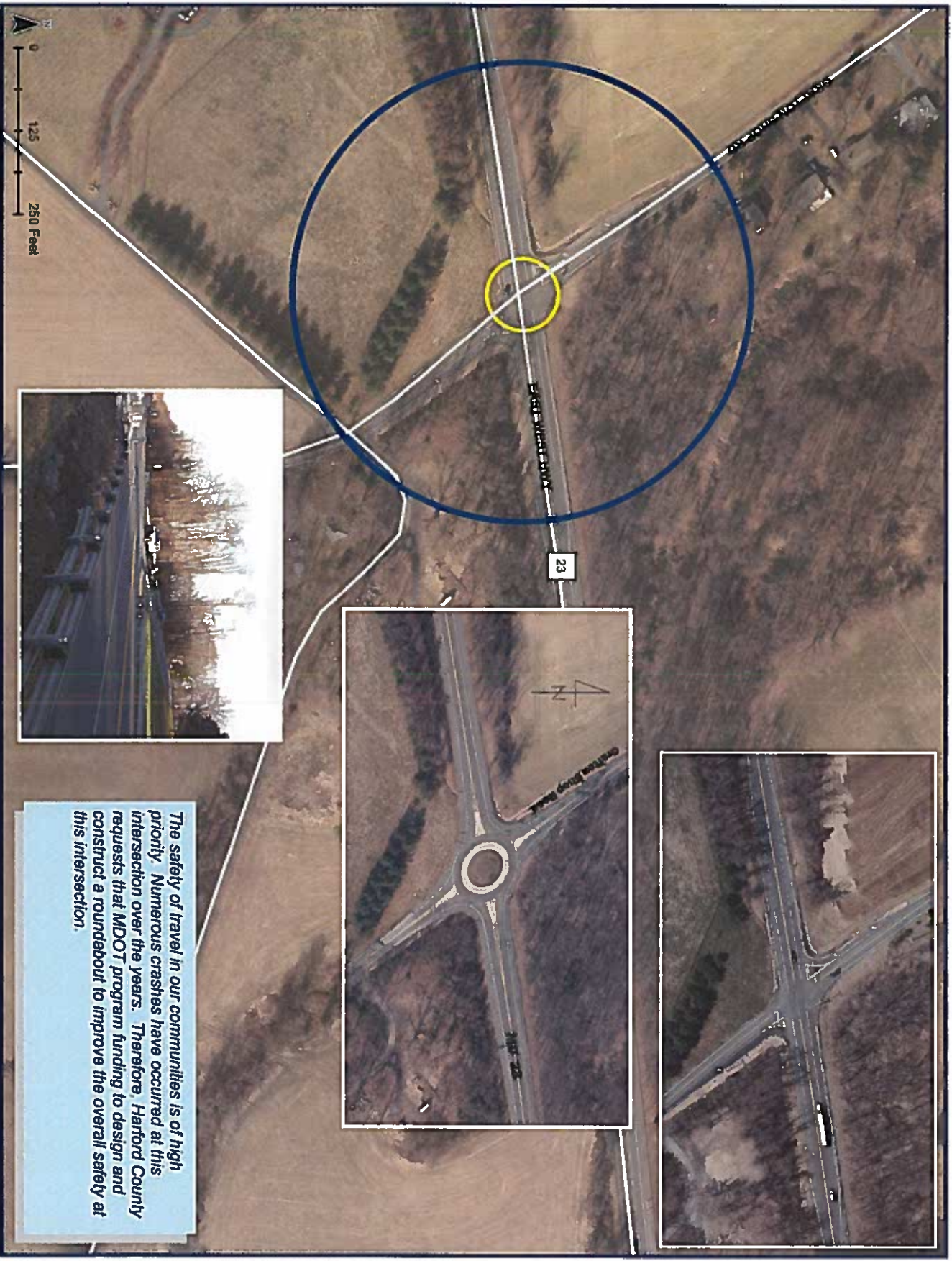


PRIORITY # 7

MD 23 @ GRAFTON SHOP ROUNDABOUT

CATEGORY - SAFETY/OPERATIONS

ESTIMATED COST - \$1,000,000



The safety of travel in our communities is of high priority. Numerous crashes have occurred at this intersection over the years. Therefore, Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to design and construct a roundabout to improve the overall safety at this intersection.



PRIORITY # 8

MD 7 @ STEPNEY ROUNDABOUT

CATEGORY - SAFETY/OPERATIONS

ESTIMATED COST - \$1,500,000



As development continues to occur in the vicinity of the MD 7 corridor, between I-95 and the Parryman Peninsula, the level of service (LOS) at unsignalized intersections continue to worsen. Improvements to this intersection have been identified in several plan approval letters and include extension of turn lanes and installation of a traffic signal when warrants are met. Harford County recommends that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct a roundabout to improve the safety and flow of traffic through this intersection.

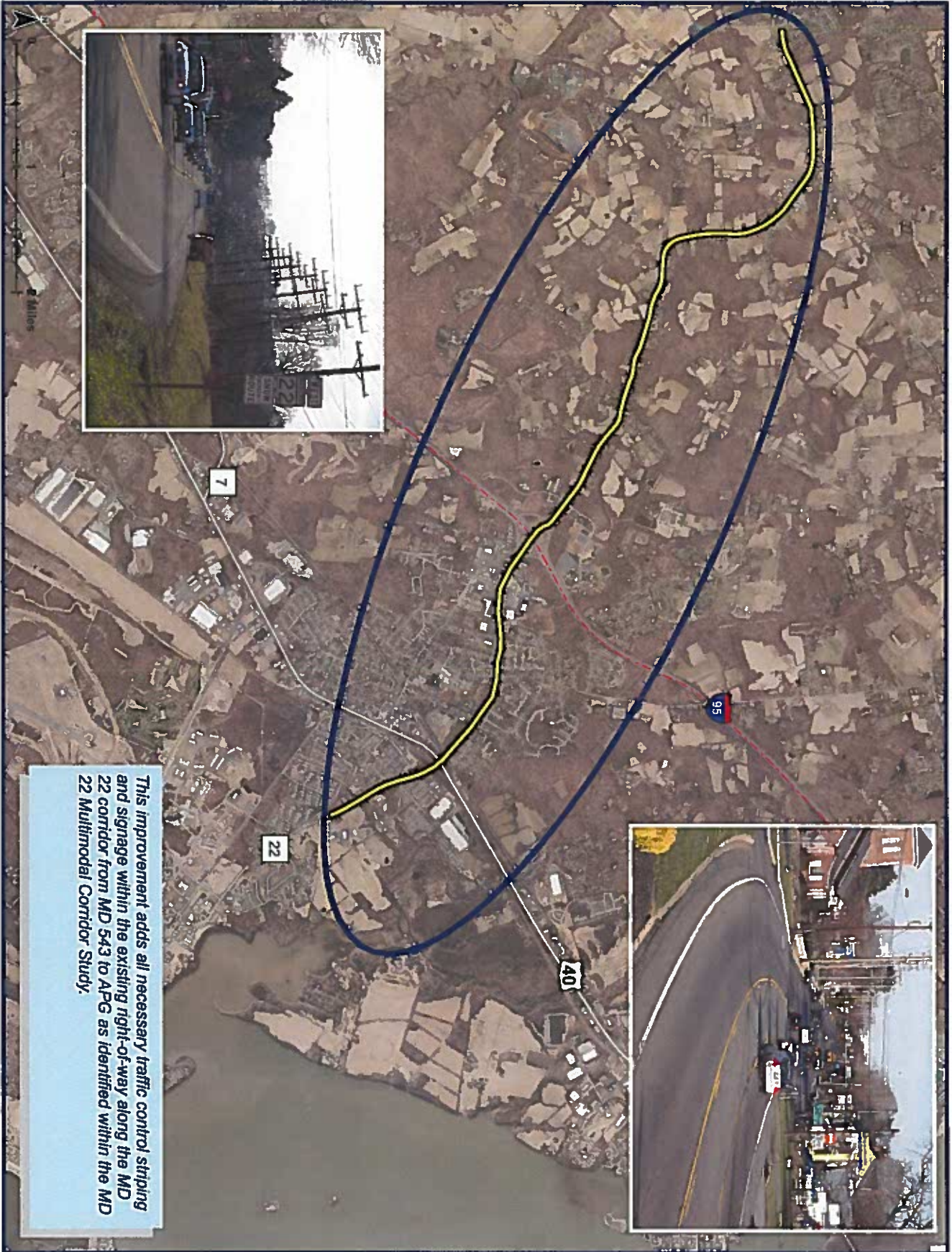


PRIORITY # 9

MD 22 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN UPGRADES

CATEGORY - BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN/SHARED USE PATH

ESTIMATED COST \$500,000 - \$1,000,000



This improvement adds all necessary traffic control striping and signage within the existing right-of-way along the MD 22 corridor from MD 543 to APG as identified within the MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study.

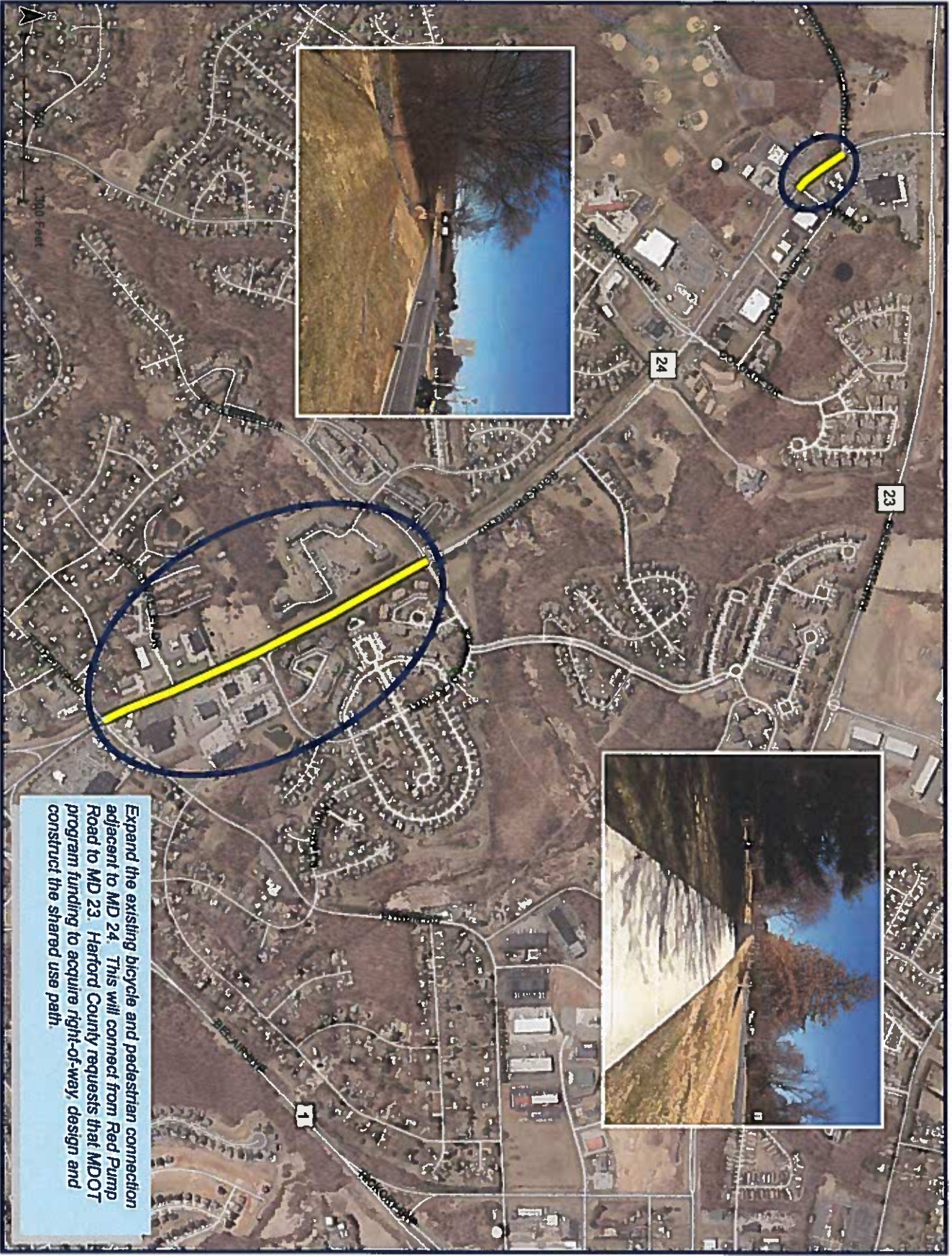


PRIORITY # 10

MD 24 SHARED USE PATH (FOREST HILL)

CATEGORY - BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN/SHARED USE PATH

ESTIMATED COST \$500,000



Expand the existing bicycle and pedestrian connection adjacent to MD 24. This will connect from Red Pump Road to MD 23. Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design and construct the shared use path.

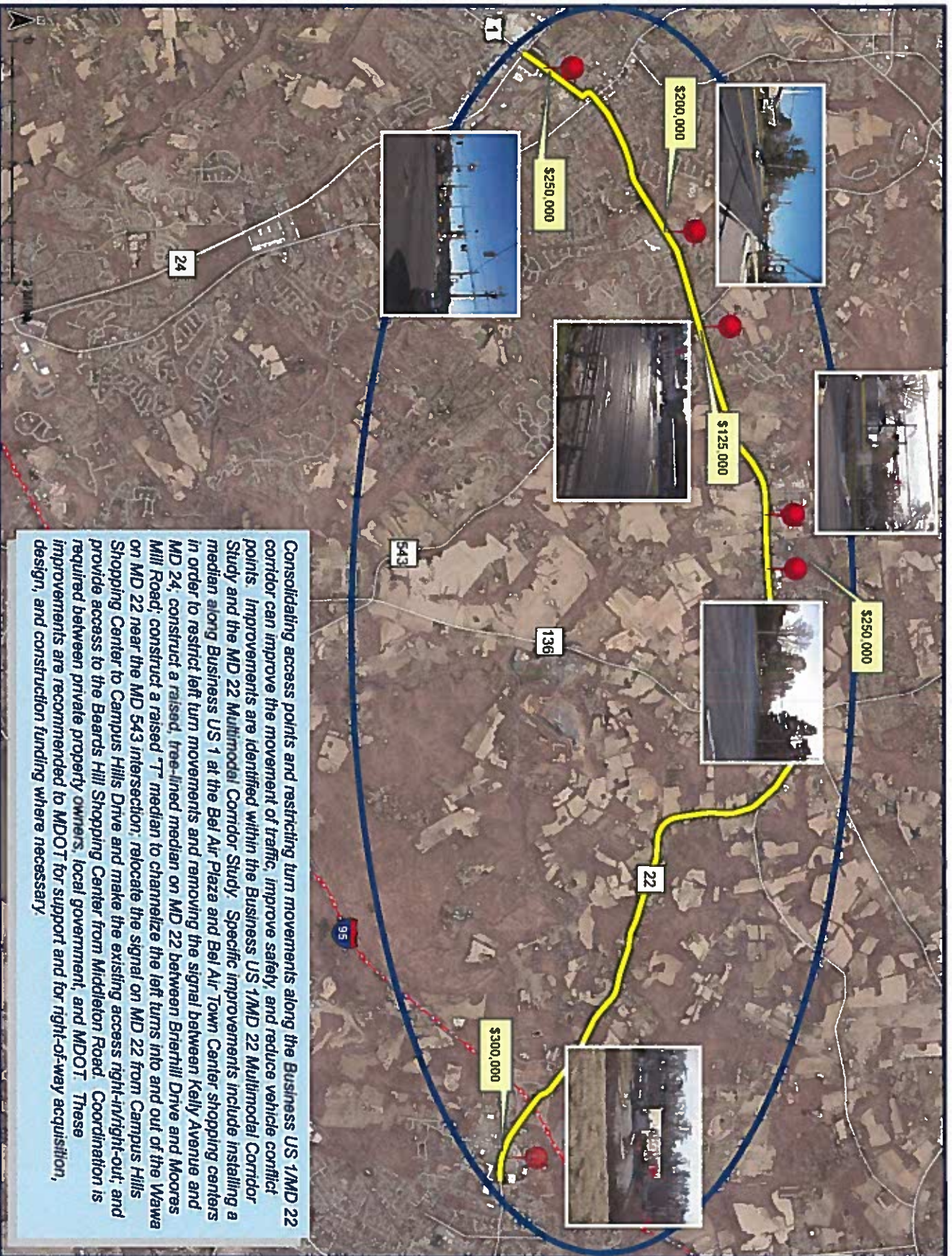


PRIORITY # 11

US 1 BUSINESS/MD 22 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

CATEGORY - SAFETY/OPERATIONS

ESTIMATED COST - \$1,125,000



Consolidating access points and restricting turn movements along the Business US 1/MD 22 corridor can improve the movement of traffic, improve safety, and reduce vehicle conflict points. Improvements are identified within the Business US 1/MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study and the MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study. Specific improvements include installing a median along Business US 1 at the Bel Air Plaza and Bel Air Town Center shopping centers in order to restrict left turn movements and removing the signal between Kelly Avenue and MD 24; construct a raised, tree-lined median on MD 22 between Briarthill Drive and Moores Mill Road; construct a raised, tree-lined median to channelize the left turns into and out of the Wawa on MD 22 near the MD 543 intersection; relocate the signal on MD 22 from Campus Hills Shopping Center to the Beards Hill Shopping Center from Middleton Road. Coordination is required between private property owners, local government, and MDOT. These improvements are recommended to MDOT for support and for right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction funding where necessary.

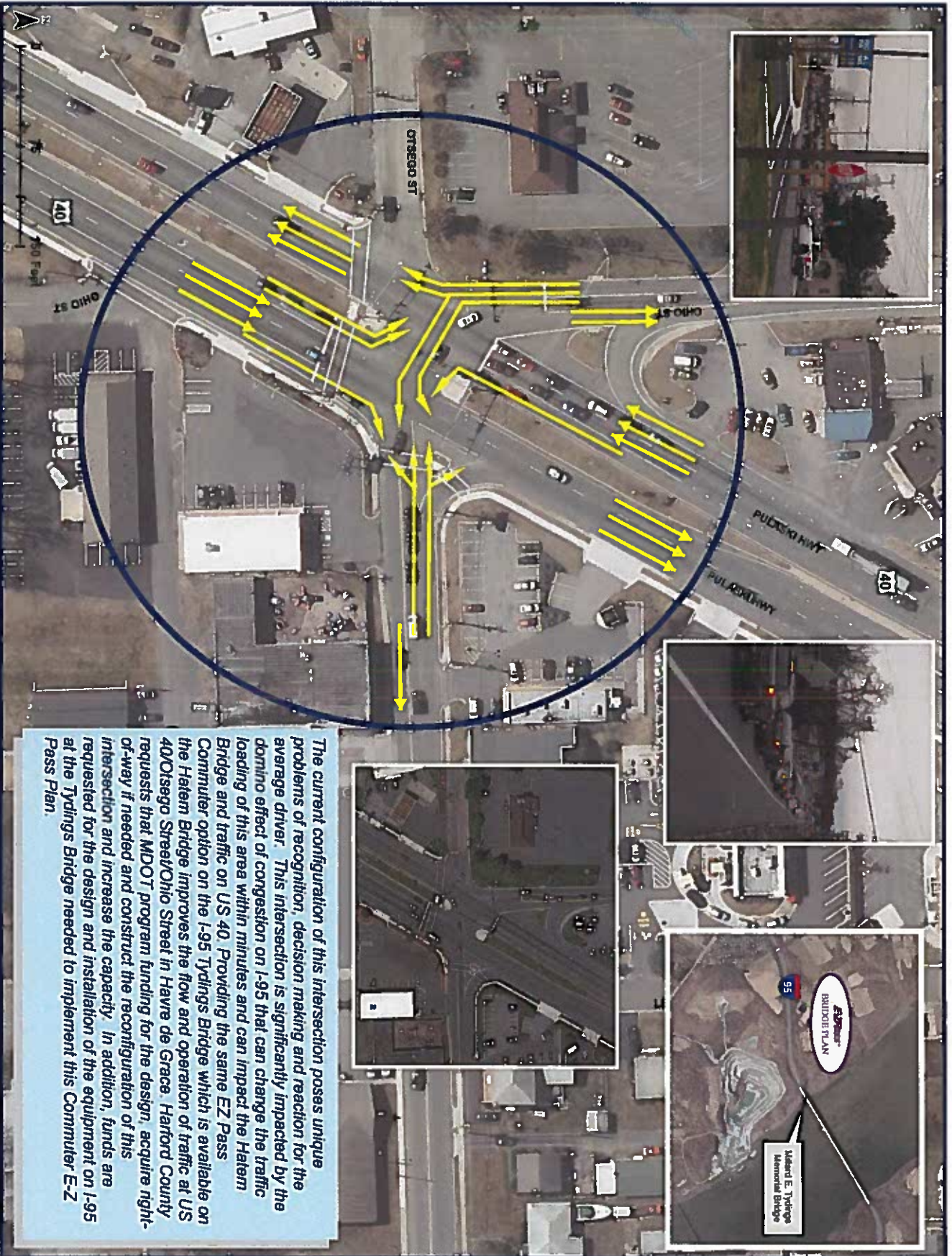


PRIORITY # 12

US 40 @ OTSEGO STREET / OHIO STREET

CATEGORY - SAFETY / OPERATIONS

ESTIMATED COST - \$12,000,000



The current configuration of this intersection poses unique problems of recognition, decision making and reaction for the average driver. This intersection is significantly impacted by the domino effect of congestion on I-95 that can change the traffic loading of this area within minutes and can impact the Haltem Commuter option on US 40. Providing the same EZ Pass Commuter option on the I-95 Tydings Bridge which is available on the Haltem Bridge improves the flow and operation of traffic at US 40/Otsego Street/Ohio Street in Havre de Grace. Harford County requests that MDOT program funding for the design, acquire right-of-way if needed and construct the reconfiguration of this intersection and increase the capacity. In addition, funds are requested for the design and installation of the equipment on I-95 at the Tydings Bridge needed to implement this Commuter E-Z Pass Plan.

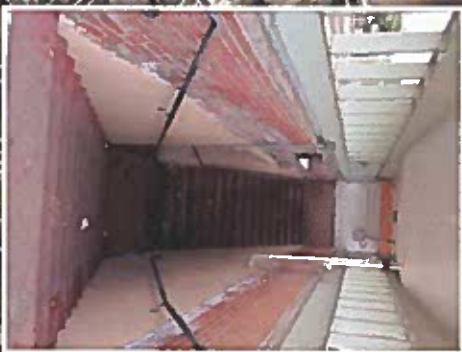


PRIORITY # 13

ABERDEEN MARC TRAIN STATION

CATEGORY - TRANSIT

ESTIMATED COST - \$5,000,000



The Aberdeen MARC Train Station and the area around it has been designated as a future Transit Oriented Development site. As part of this designation, Station Square East and West Plaza will replace the existing pedestrian overpass with an enhanced (10-foot high by 30-foot wide) pedestrian underpass and a green, terraced plaza/amphitheater. Harford County requests that MDOT program initial funding for the required environmental and engineering analysis of underground conditions, including hazardous material, ground water elevation and storage tank removal on the Exxon Gas Station site. This will help determine additional design and cost aspects of construction of the underpass.



PRIORITY # 14

MD 23 @ MD 146/MADONNA ROUNDABOUT

CATEGORY - SAFETY/OPERATIONS

ESTIMATED COST - \$1,200,000



This intersection currently operates as a four-way stop controlled intersection. A roundabout allows a higher throughput than a four-way stop controlled intersection and is therefore more efficient. Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct a roundabout at this intersection.