

Council Agenda Form

MOTION #		DRAFT # 1
DATE SUBMITTED: 01/31/2023	DATE TO GO BEFORE COUNCIL: LEAVE BLANK	
SUBMITTED BY: Councilmember Waszczak		
CO-SPONSORS:		
DEPARTMENT: Legislative		

TITLE OF MOTION: Enhance Safety and Beauty of Alt Route 1 Corridor and Reconnect to Ward 1

RECOMMENDATION:

I move that the Mayor and Council fund a capital improvement project that enhances the safety and beauty of the Alternate Route 1 corridor, to better incorporate this neighborhood into Ward 1, and transform it into a more welcoming southern gateway to the City of Hyattsville.

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

Ward 1 encompasses a 0.6-mile section of Alternate Route 1, extending from the Anacostia River and Charles Armentrout Drive northward toward Arundel Place, and Crittenden, Buchanan, Burlington, Emerson and Decatur Streets, until it becomes a rail overpass at the CSX/MARC tracks and then merges with Route 1.

This neighborhood is part of the M-NCPPC-designated Gateway Arts District (see below). However, Alt Route 1 has historically not received the same level of attention, maintenance and investment as other corridors. This neighborhood has not been included in Gateway Arts District identity, marketing and promotion campaigns and community events, and has not benefitted from streetscape, walkability and bikeability improvements seen elsewhere in Hyattsville. Metro (WMATA) re-routed its buses from this street, which means it has also become less transit accessible. As a result, residents and business owners in this section of the City frequently report feeling separate and cut off from, and therefore less important than, the rest of the City.

This project will tangibly demonstrate the City's commitment to investing in residents, customers, business owners and workers who are "Hyattsville proud" yet have long felt forgotten.

- The population of this neighborhood is diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, income level, religion, age, ability, and length of residency.
- This neighborhood is home to a wide variety of businesses including artisans and craftspeople, an architectural firm, a funeral home, a martial arts academy, several auto-related services, HVAC suppliers, a gas station, and restaurants.
- Residents frequently report they are disturbed and concerned about neighborhood safety due to a fatal shooting on Burlington in August 2019, and a fatal stabbing on Alt Route 1 in November 2022. *(Need additional info from HCPD—are crime stats disproportionately high in this neighborhood?)* This capital improvement project will draw on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), a multi-disciplinary approach that leverages design and management of the built and natural environments to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community so residents and workers gain territorial control.

From an equity and environmental justice perspective, this neighborhood deserves the same level of investment as the rest of Ward 1's neighborhoods.

This project will support recent capital investments by the City in this neighborhood. A more inviting corridor will encourage Hyattsville residents to visit the Emerson Food Forest and utilize the new Environmental Depot at our Public Works facility that will provide standard recycling as well as composting, recycling for fabric and oil, and more.

This capital investment project will enhance the safety and beauty of this corridor by:

- Partnering with PEPCO and SHA to add LED, dark-skies-compliant streetlights.
- Partnering with SHA to add bike lanes on the northbound and southbound sides of the road.
- Ordering and installing Hyattsville banners similar to others in the City that attach to streetlights.
- Replacing the “Welcome to Hyattsville” sign and adding a “Now leaving Hyattsville. Come back soon!” sign.
- Carrying out a concentrated project of façade improvements for businesses on and near Alt Route 1.
- Installing a big belly trash/recycling can on each side of the street.
- Dedication additional code compliance staff time to this neighborhood to reduce negative impacts of auto related businesses.
- Completing other placemaking investments as identified and prioritized by a robust community outreach process (e.g., painting a mural, planting trees alongside the road, adding signage to remind freight vehicle operators and single occupancy vehicle drivers to slow down).

ANTICIPATED STAFF RESOURCES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT:

Public Works intensive with early work by planners for community outreach

NEXT STEPS:

Reviews by:

- Equity Officer for equity analysis
- Public Works: Director, Deputy Director and Transportation Manager
- Community & Economic Development: Director, Planner, Small Business Recovery Coordinator
- Police for crime data
- Treasurer and ARP Manager

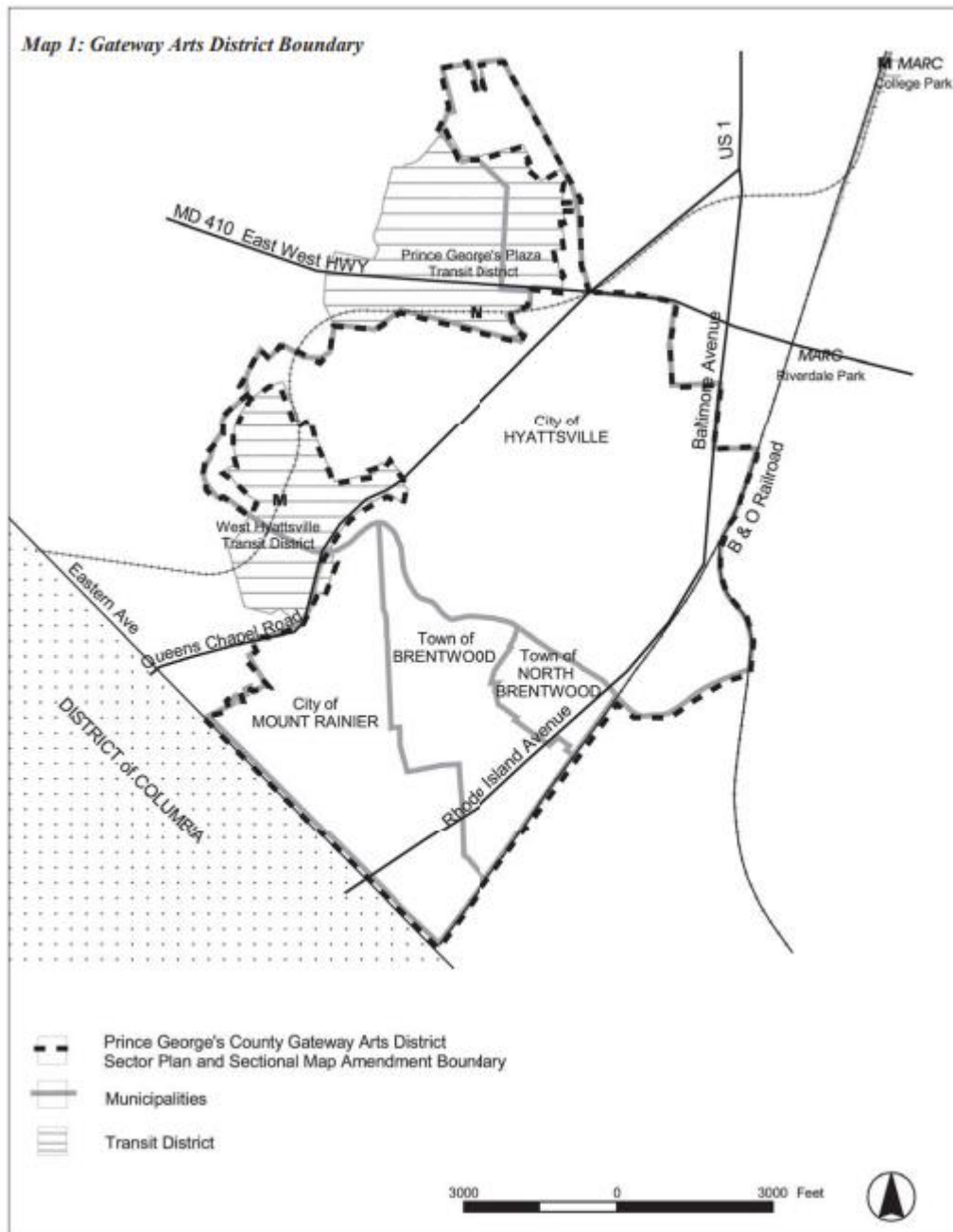
CITY ADMINISTRATOR / DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR COMMENT:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

This Washington Post article from 1983 demonstrates that the separation of the Alt Route 1 side of Ward 1 from the Route 1 side of Ward 1 has been a concern for decades (since 1929).

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1983/06/22/wrong-bridge-at-the-wrong-time-rte-1-plan-opposed-in-hyattsville/7747ee12-bc79-4125-af97-886e17732392/>

This map shows that Alt Route 1 community is included in the Gateway Arts District, even if it has not been treated as such.



Approved Sector Plan and SMA for the Prince George's County Gateway Arts District

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FISCAL IMPACT:

- Need input from Community & Economic Development and Public Works to determine exact amount.
- This motion proposes a one-time capital improvement project that will require staff time and capital project funds from ARP or regular budget, hopefully supplemented by federal, state or philanthropic grants.
- Maintenance of Alt Route 1 streetscape, lighting, banners, trash/recycling receptacles, etc. will need to be incorporated into the regular budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

In the early 2000s, the Gateway Arts District and the Hyattsville CDC and M-NCPPC conducted community engagement. These efforts need to be updated by the City, as a community-led and community-driven effort, hosted at Gasch's Funeral Home, with support from Hyattsville CDC.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTIONS:

Goal 2 – Ensure the long-term health of the City, Action 2.1 – Maintain a responsible level of investment in capital and operational resources managed through Council's adopted budget policy development plan, including the use of five-year revenue and expenditure projections

Goal 3 – Enhance a safe and pleasant community, Action 3.3 – Effectively manage and invest in community amenities and City infrastructure including streets, sidewalks and other public facilities

LEGAL REVIEW REQUIRED?: