



Memo

To: Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
From: Lesley Riddle, Director of Public Works
CC: Hal Metzler, Deputy Director of Public Works
Date: 10/1/2021

Re: Hamilton Street Ownership from 38th Avenue to Queens Chapel Road

In November of 2019 City staff had a meeting with Erica Rigby, the District Three Engineer from Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), about several issues within the City of Hyattsville. During this meeting concerns regarding MD 208 (Hamilton Street) were discussed. During this discussion, specifically about MD 208, Ms. Rigby indicated that MDOT would be completely open to transferring ownership of this section of MD 208 to the City of Hyattsville.

After the meeting with MDOT, City staff requested Pennoni, our on-call traffic engineering firm, to conduct an informal review of the feasibility of the city taking ownership from MDOT of Hamilton Street from 38th Avenue to Queens Chapel Road. Their initial findings concluded that MDOT would be open to negotiating a transfer of ownership of this portion of MD208.

DPW staff has concluded that ownership of this section of MD208 could benefit the city in the following ways:

- Increased response to ROW and infrastructure repairs.
- Immediate ability to implement additional pedestrian safety measures.
- Interconnecting existing park amenities to create a broader park experience.
- Increased ability to make needed street improvement for increased connectivity.
- Increase and review existing parking for the new Public Safety building.
- Better ability for traffic calming and re-direction of cut-through traffic within this corridor.
- Capability to influence and improve stormwater mitigation within the ROW.
- The existing road surface has been recently paved and will not need resurfacing in the next 8 to 12 years.
- The existing sidewalks have been re-done and will not need replacement in the next 15 to 30 years.

If the City considers taking over this road from MDOT the upfront and long-term costs would be as follows:

- Snow removal and salt applications - \$1000.00 yearly
- Initial sidewalk replacement - \$15,000.00 over the next 5 years
- Striping of crosswalks and curbs - \$4000.00 over the 3 to 5 years
- Pedestrian Improvements - \$100,000.00 over the next 10 years
- Stormwater Improvements - \$100,000.00 over the next 15 years (stormwater improvements may be able to be reimbursed)
- Parking improvements - \$70,000 over the next 5 years

DPW staff believes that owning this section of MD208 is a good investment and will improve traffic flow, pedestrian safety, access to amenities, and overall improved responsiveness to these wards. The budget costs are primarily capital costs mostly deferred by several years and reasonably affordable based on the current budget trends.