Downtown Columbia
Patuxent Branch Trail Extension Feasibility Study

Howard County, Maryland

FINAL-October 2014

Capital Project ID: T7107
Submitted to: Howard County – Department of Planning and Zoning
Prepared by: Toole Design Group, LLC.
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Segment Alternative Map – Aerial
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Preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost
Executive Summary

In December of 2013, the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning initiated a study to assess the feasibility of linking Downtown Columbia to the Patuxent Branch Trail by exploring and evaluating both existing and potential on and off road pathways to develop a direct connection. The study was initiated in response to direction contained in Howard County Capital Project T7107 that called for a study to evaluate connections and routes to link Downtown Columbia and the Patuxent Branch Trail in relation to their community and environmental impacts and relationship to the Oakland Mills Bridge capital project.

Method

The study reviewed and evaluated a wide range of segments between Downtown Columbia and the Patuxent Branch Trail to develop the direct connection and makes recommendations for a preferred alternative and future actions. The study identified 19 segments to connect Downtown Columbia to the Patuxent Branch Trail, organizing the 19 segments into five categories based on geographic location and their physical, connectivity and environmental constraints. Seven segments were determined not to be feasible because of their topographic and connectivity constraints and twelve were determined to be feasible. The study then refined the evaluation of the feasible segments based on environmental impacts, directness, comfort for uses, desirability, engineering and geographic feasibility and order-of-magnitude costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations C1 and A2 as a Phase 1 Route</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segment Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segment C1 is shared-use pathway along the</td>
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<tr>
<td>existing sewer line corridor between</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downtown Columbia and Stevens Forest Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>west of the Little Patuxent River</td>
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<td>Segment A2 is on-road bikeway connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>along Stevens Forest Road from Broken Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parkway to the intersection with the</td>
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<tr>
<td>existing sewer line corridor</td>
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<tr>
<th>Recommends Additional Actions on Segments B2 and C2 as part of a Phase 2 Route</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segment Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segment B2 is a shared-use pathway along Broken Land Parkway from Stevens Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road to the Patuxent Branch Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segment C2 is a shared-use pathway along the sewer line corridor from Stevens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Road to the Patuxent Branch Trail; west of the Little Patuxent River</td>
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