



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of The Board of Commissioners

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jacob C. Shade, *President*
Creade V. Brodie, Jr.
David J. Caporale

Brandon S. Butler, *County Administrator*
William M. Rudd, *Attorney*

April 30, 2019

The Hon. Pete K. Rahn, Maryland Transportation Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Allegany County 2019 Transportation Priorities

Dear Transportation Secretary Rahn:

The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County, in cooperation with the municipalities of Allegany County are pleased to have the opportunity to present our transportation priorities to your department for the FY 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP.) The County's transportation priorities focus on system preservation, safety, and supporting economic development. The County appreciates your responsiveness to Allegany County's requests to move projects forward efficiently to better serve the needs of our constituents.

Thank you for funding the following projects from the 2018 Transportation Priority request:

- Bowling Green Drainage Study Phase 1 from Milnor Avenue to Aspen Avenue;
- Allegany County Transit Capital and Operating funds in FY 2019
- Preliminary Engineering for Baltimore Street Bridge
- Installation of intersection warning beacons at the MD 51 (Oldtown Road) intersection with Mexico Farms Road and Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) Road

This year, you will see many of the projects that were listed in the 2018 Priority Letter; the projects request has been updated to complete the next phase of the project or the request is no longer for preliminary engineering but for construction funding. It is critical projects in Allegany County continue to received funding for consecutive phasing and to see these projects to completion in timely manner to reach the goals of a safe and effective transportation system.

To be consistent with the Chapter 725 process, representatives from the County and the municipalities discussed and prioritized the following projects at a coordination meeting held Monday, March 11, 2019. The Board of Commissioners, as a part of the agenda on Thursday, March 14, 2019 endorsed the 2019 priority requests. On behalf of Allegany County, the Town of Barton, the City of Cumberland, the City of Frostburg, the Town of Lonaconing, the Town of Luke, the Town of Midland, and the Town of Westernport, we would like to submit the following projects:

1. **Baltimore Street Access (updated)**

The City of Cumberland requests continued funding for construction of this project. There has been \$2 million in TAP funding obligated to the project, which is estimated to cost \$8 million. This project was recommended in a recent Economic and Transportation Study of Downtown Cumberland. The City plans to reopen the Baltimore Street pedestrian mall to allow one-way vehicular traffic through the area yet maintain space for pedestrians, bikes and outdoor dining. Design work for this project is underway and funded by the City. To date, the State has been very helpful concerning funding of the construction and the City is looking forward to continuing that good relationship through the funding and construction phases of the project. Without grant funds, this project will not be possible. In addition to the transportation needs satisfied by this project, the City is also anticipating economic development and increased tax base to be accomplishments of the project.

2. **US 220 Cresaptown Improvements (US 220, MD 53, and MD 636)**

Allegany County supports transportation system management (TSM) improvements to relieve the congestion along existing US 220, MD 53, and MD 636 (Warrior Drive) by requesting funding for detailed engineering and right-of way-acquisition, and construction. This project is in response to the public meeting held in winter 2017, the public was in strong support of immediate improvements to the area.

3. MD 135 Slope Protection Project & Condition Improvements (new)

Allegany County, the Town of Luke, and the Town of Westernport request design funding for Phase II of the MD 135 Slope Protection Project, and improve access and road conditions in areas of MD 135. A geologically-based concept study done in Fall of 2017 evaluated areas along MD 135 from Bloomington to McCoolle that were prone to failure, sheering rock, and overburden of saturated soils. Seven areas were identified as high risk and high probability of failure. These seven areas are under design and construction funding for FY 2021 is expected. Funding for the design of Phase II to address the next high-risk areas is warranted to the continued safe operation of MD 135.

Meanwhile when MDOT is addressing the MD slope protection project, Allegany County appreciate improvements to access along 135 in Westernport. There are queuing issues on the roadway at peak times the traffic in the vicinity of Church Street (MD 135) due to ingress and egress to businesses in Westernport. While MDOT is working on MD 135, the Town of Luke would like the pavement condition through the Town to be addressed the culverts that were installed to remedy drainage issues, are now clogged and the paving has deteriorated that there are bumps in the road was at each culvert.

4. Baltimore Street Bridge (A-C-06) Rehabilitation (updated)

The City and County are requesting to obligate bridge funding for the Baltimore Street Bridge over Wills Creek, which is in need of a total deck replacement. After the latest inspection in November 2017, the bridge received a condition rating of 4. The project is estimated to be \$2.3 million dollars. The project is currently waiting for Notice to Proceed from MDOT SHA to begin the preliminary engineering for the bridge replacement. The bridge is a vital transportation link between the main downtown business district, the West Side residential area, and suburban areas along U.S. Route 220 south in Allegany County. The bridge also handles relief traffic when sections of I-68 west of downtown Cumberland are closed or blocked.

5. US 220 Supplemental Corridor Evaluation Report (South of Cresaptown to WV State Line)

The Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration is conducting a US 220 Supplemental Corridor Evaluation Report from south of Cresaptown to the West Virginia State line, recommendations and findings will determine how to move forward with a high capacity limited access highway. As of Spring 2019, MDOT is waiting for WVDOT to finalize the location of the roadway at the Potomac River. The overall plan is for the development of a multilane highway to ease the current conflict between local and through traffic, improve safety, and encourage economic vitality in Allegany County.

6. Construction Funds for Braddock Road Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements (updated)

The project lies along MD 736 in Allegany County. The purpose of the project is to provide continuous bicycling and pedestrian connection from the Center Street intersection to Braddock Street and bicycle lanes to Active Network, residences, Appalachian Lab, Edgewood Commons, and Frostburg State University (FSU). The corridor is currently used by pedestrians and bicyclists, but does not have adequate facilities for their safe travel. Funding for preliminary engineering is allocated in FY 2020, and there are no costs for right-of-way acquisition. The City of Frostburg requests construction funding to complete the project by 2021.

7. Allegany County Transit Operating & Capital Funding (updated)

Allegany County Transit is requesting funding for operations and capital projects. Allegany County Transit operates fixed route service and ADA Demand Response in Allegany County. The Transit's mission is to provide the citizens and visitors of the Allegany County service area with safe, reliable, courteous, efficient, and clean transportation. Continued support for operations funds will help us achieve our mission. Capital Funding request for FY 2020 includes preventative maintenance, shop equipment, one Heavy-Duty Bus Replacement, three Light Duty Bus Replacements, 21st Century Office Equipment, environmentally friendly parts cleaner, and the replacement of four garage doors on the transit building.

8. US 220 Bowling Green Drainage Improvements (updated)

Allegany County requests continued support funding for all phases of the Bowling Green drainage improvements, from Milnor Avenue to Moss Ave. After the June 12, 2014 flood event, State Highway Administration (SHA) and Allegany County collaborated with Whitney Bailey Cox & Magnani, LLC (WBCM) in preparing the Bowling Green Flooding Hydrology/Hydraulics Study from Milnor Avenue to Moss Avenue along the US220 corridor. The study consisted of a hydrology study over 1,184 acres, review of the existing stormwater systems' hydraulic conditions, and proposed short-, mid-, and long-term solutions in response to the flood event. Phase I is 90% complete as of April 2019, and preliminary engineering is underway for Phase 2. It is imperative to secure funding for this project so consecutive phasing can continue. Allegany County requests that SHA continue to obligate funding for the cost of engineering/design, permitting, and construction management services. SHA will fund the construction cost of all work within the US220 right-of-way and split the cost with Allegany County for all work from US220 to the CSX Railroad.

9. Frostburg Gateway Enhancements (updated)

The Braddock Road (MD 736), Center Street, Bowery Street, and Park Avenue intersection is a major pedestrian thoroughfare for FSU students. This intersection is the gateway to the Frostburg Central Business District entering the City via Interstate 68, Exit 33 (Braddock/Midlothian Road). The purpose of this project is to reduce vehicular conflicts, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance the appearance of the City at this intersection. The project will include changes to traffic patterns, narrowing of a one-way street, new pedestrian crossings, construction of new sidewalks, and additional lighting of the intersection. A fully functional roundabout feasibility study is complete and ARC has granted funding for roundabout design and partial construction. The City of Frostburg requests additional construction funding to complete the Frostburg Gateway Enhancements.

10. Great Allegheny Passage Stabilization, Drainage & Surface Improvements

Allegheny County requests construction funding for stabilization, drainage and surface improvements on the Great Allegheny Passage. Improvements are needed in various locations throughout the County to eliminate the on-going maintenance that is required to combat drainage and trail surface issues. These improvements will address historical problems and improve safety for all trail users.

11. Decatur Street Improvements (new)

The City of Cumberland requests funding to reconstruct Decatur Street. This is one of the City's oldest streets which is in need of extensive structural (base and subbase improvements) and roadway surface rehabilitation due to utility failures. It is proposed that this project be coordinated with a separate project to replace the 24" water main in Decatur Street, for which the City is seeking funding from other sources. This street improvement project would also include pedestrian, bicycle, ADA, and streetscape upgrades.

12. Cumberland Street Bridge (A-C-09)

The City of Cumberland requests funding for the design and construction of this project. This is one of three bridges on Cumberland's West Side which carry vehicular and pedestrian traffic over CSX rail lines. All three bridges were closed in 2018 due to their unsafe condition. The City has assumed ownership from CSX, via a Quit Claim Bill of Sale, and the bridge has been deemed eligible for replacement through the Federal Bridge Rehabilitation Program by MDOT SHA and FHWA. The project is currently going through the initial stages of funding approval for preliminary engineering through the MDOT OOS and Federal Aid.

13. Fayette Street, Washington Street, and Greene Street Bridge Rehabilitation

The City of Cumberland is requesting that the State obligate funding to replace the Fayette Street and the Washington Street Bridges, as well as lower the roadway at the Greene Street Underpass. The bridges and underpass are located along a CSX railway. The City and CSX have been in negotiations for several months to address ownership of the bridges, which is expected to result in the City assuming ownership of the Fayette Street and Washington Street Bridges. The Greene Street Bridge is a CSX-owned bridge with inadequate vertical clearance. The raising of the Greene Street Bridge to meet federal standards would practically eliminate any feasible solutions for replacing the Washington Street Bridge. By lowering Greene Street and adjusting the utilities for proper road bed coverage within the underpass, adequate vertical clearance could be provided to permit Greene Street to be used as an emergency I-68 bypass. These projects are critical for allowing the City to restore traffic flows on the West Side.

14. Greene Street Rehabilitation & Streetscape Improvements

The City of Cumberland requests funding to retrofit Greene Street. This is one of the City's oldest streets which is in need of extensive and long-deferred structural rehabilitation (base and subbase improvements), roadway surface rehabilitation, and pedestrian, bicycle, ADA, and streetscape upgrades. Greene Street, formally US Route 220 and the first National Road, is in need of significant rehabilitation to handle the traffic on this West Side arterial street. Lack of local funds as well as any funds for road improvements have prevented the City from being able to do anything on this street since the days of Urban Systems Federal Aid sharing through the MDOT SHA. The City is looking to implement the Greene Street Complete Street Plan to improve the corridor for all modes of transportation. The Greene Street Complete Street Plan (financed by the Cumberland Area MPO) was completed in 2015. The plan provides a vision for a safer, more attractive, and economically viable street spanning from Baltimore Street to the end of City maintenance at I-68 Exit 42.

15. Mount Savage Road (MD 36) Pedestrian and Surface Improvements (Retrofit Fund 78)

Allegheny County requests retrofit funding (Fund 78) for increasing pedestrian and nonmotorized connectivity in Mount Savage (MD 36) from New School Road to the intersection of Iron Rail Street at the east end of town. There is a lack of sidewalk connectivity and challenges relating to the narrow roadway. These improvements will further revitalize the community of Mount Savage. We are aware of the challenges associated with the project, but are hopeful for any improvements that can be made along MD 36.

The Hon. Pete K. Rahn

April 30, 2019

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Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Allegany County. We look forward to a productive partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation and to actively participate in the development of the CTP to plan and implement these projects.

If you need any clarifications about our recommendations, please contact us.

Sincerely,

The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County



President, Jacob C. Shade

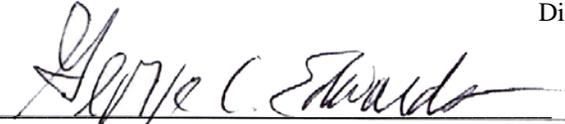


Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.

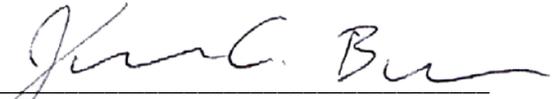


Commissioner David J. Caporale

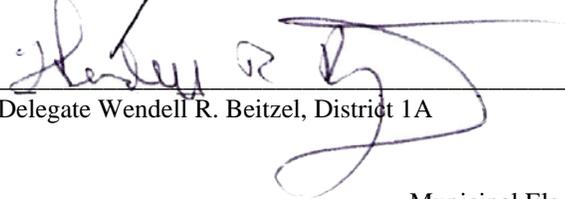
District 1 Delegation



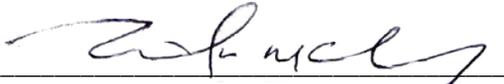
Senator George C. Edwards, District 1



Delegate Jason C. Buckel, District 1B



Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel, District 1A

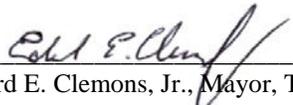


Delegate Michael W. McKay, District 1C

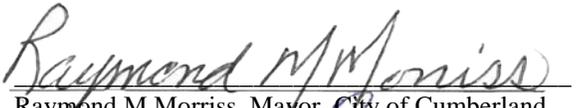
Municipal Elected Officials of Allegany County



Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton



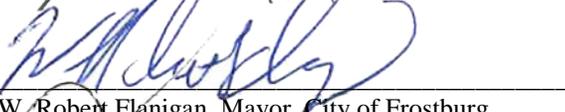
Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke



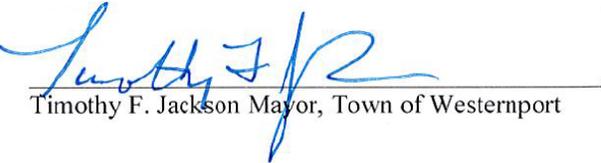
Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor, City of Cumberland



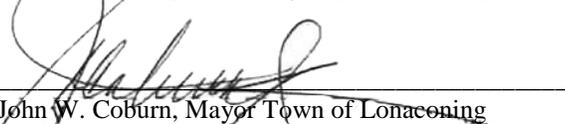
Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland



W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg



Timothy F. Jackson Mayor, Town of Westernport



John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing

Enclosures:

Maps

Cc:

The Hon. George C. Edwards, Maryland Senate
The Hon. Jason C. Buckel, Maryland House of Delegates
The Hon. Wendell R. Beitzel, Maryland House of Delegates
The Hon. Michael W. McKay, Maryland House of Delegates
Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton
Raymond Morriss, Mayor, City of Cumberland
W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg
John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing
Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke
Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland
Timothy F. Jackson, Mayor, Town of Westernport

Bc:

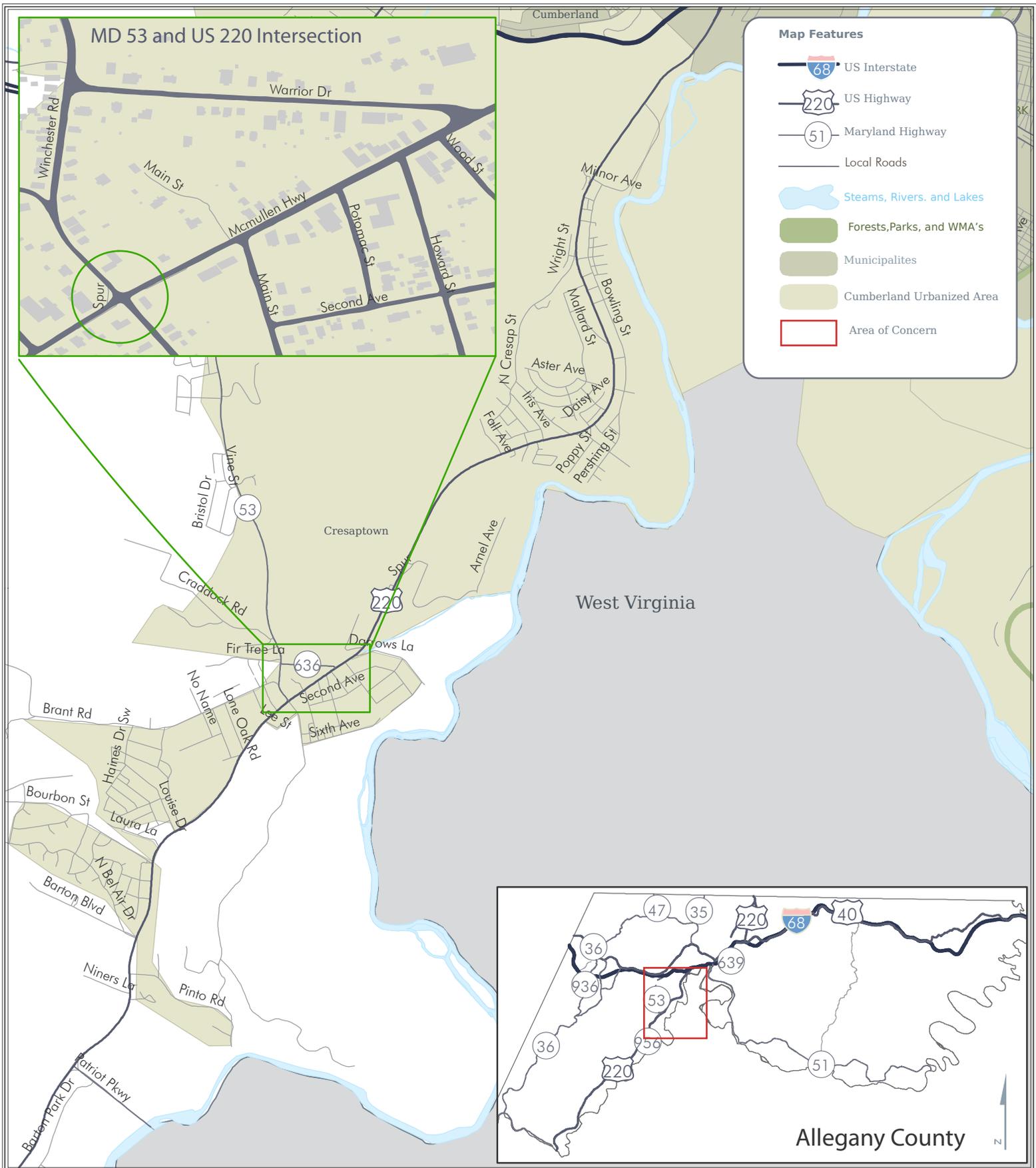
Bill Atkinson, Maryland Department of Planning
Anthony Crawford, District 6 State Highway Administration
David Schlie, State Highway Administration
Tyson Byrne, Manager, Regional Planning, Office of Planning and
Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Ian Beam, Regional Planner, Office of Planning and Capital
Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Travis Johnston, Director Office of Local Transit Support, Maryland
Transit Administration

Chris Taylor, Regional Planner, Maryland Transit Administration
Brandon Butler, Administrator, Allegany County
Paul Kahl, Director, Public Works, Allegany County
Adam Patterson, Public Works, Allegany County
Roy Cool, Planner III/ MPO Coordinator
Siera Wigfield, Planner, Allegany County
Robert Smith, City Engineer, City of Cumberland
Elizabeth Stahlman, Director of Community Development, City of
Frostburg
Laura Michael Community Development Specialist, City of
Frostburg
Dawn Beitzel, Circuit Rider



The current pedestrian mall, including the two sides streets, Liberty and Centre.

US Route 220 Improvements through Cresaptown

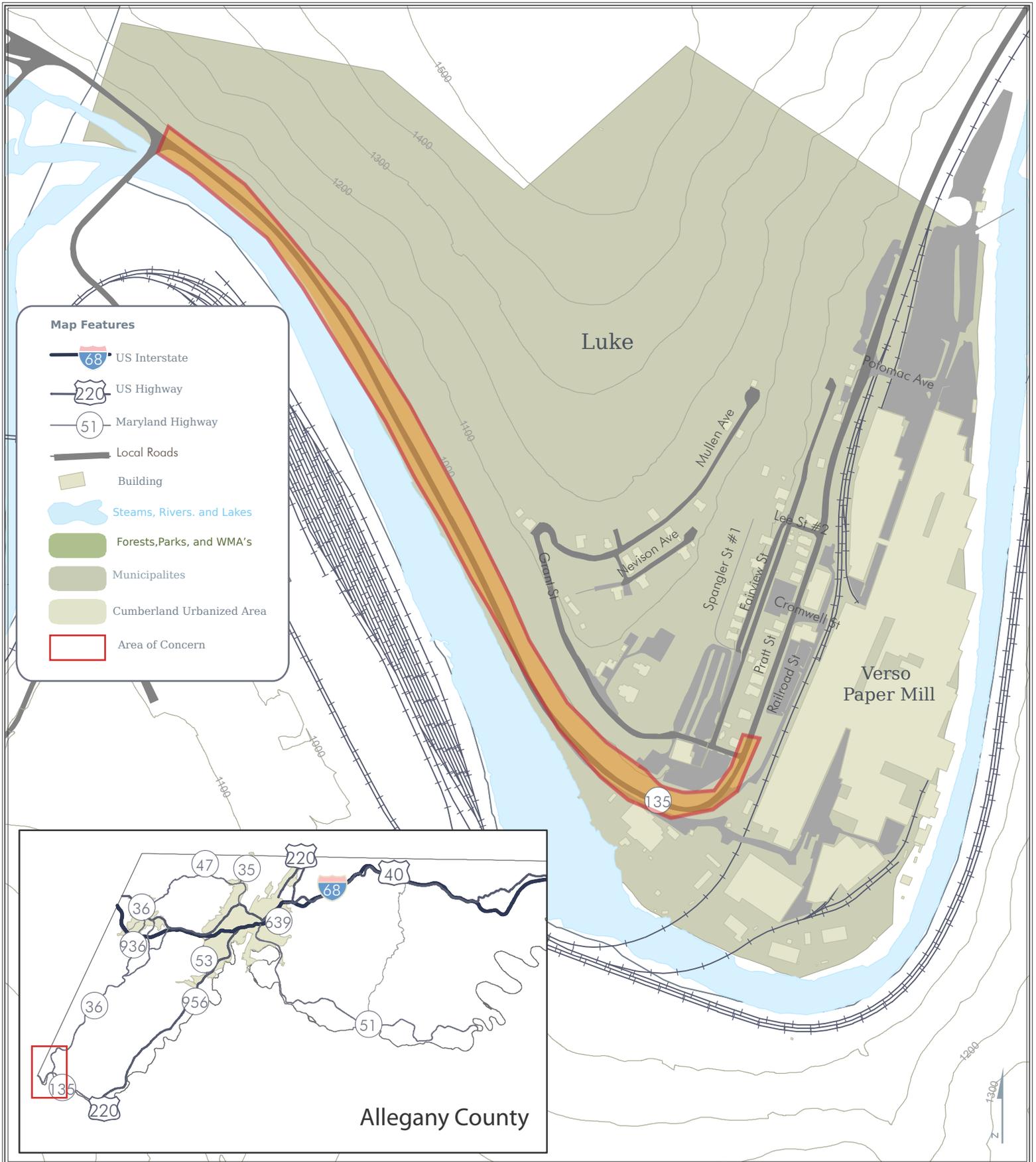


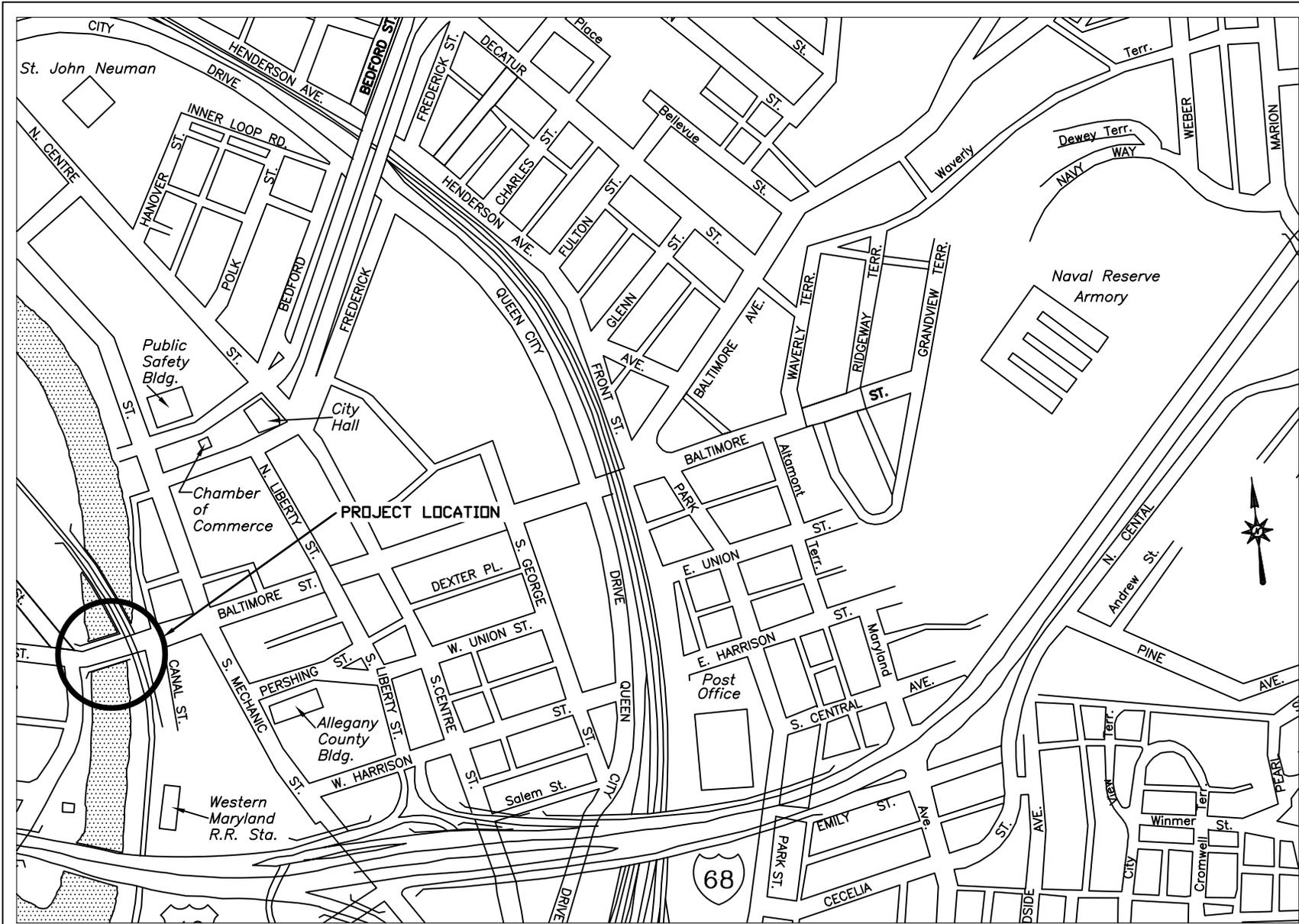
Map Features

-  US Interstate
-  US Highway
-  Maryland Highway
-  Local Roads
-  Steams, Rivers, and Lakes
-  Forests, Parks, and WMA's
-  Municipalities
-  Cumberland Urbanized Area
-  Area of Concern



MD 135 Safety Improvements- Luke, Maryland





CITY OF CUMBERLAND MARYLAND	SURVEYED BY:	TITLE Baltimore Street Bridge Rehabilitation Location Map	DATE 2/9/2012	DRAWING NO. C2463
	DRAWN BY: SAS	SCALE: Not To Scale	PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO. 1 of 5
	CHECKED BY: JRD			



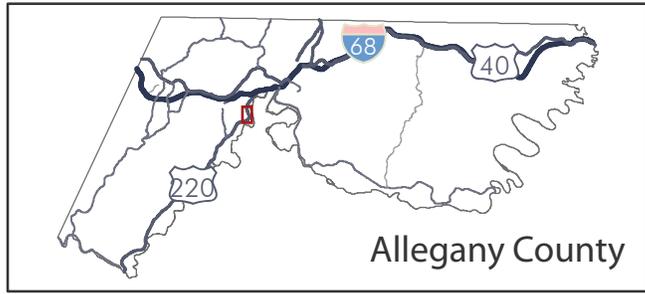
★ Braddock Road Intersection and Safety Improvement Project - construction 2016



Braddock Road - MD 736 Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements
City of Frostburg

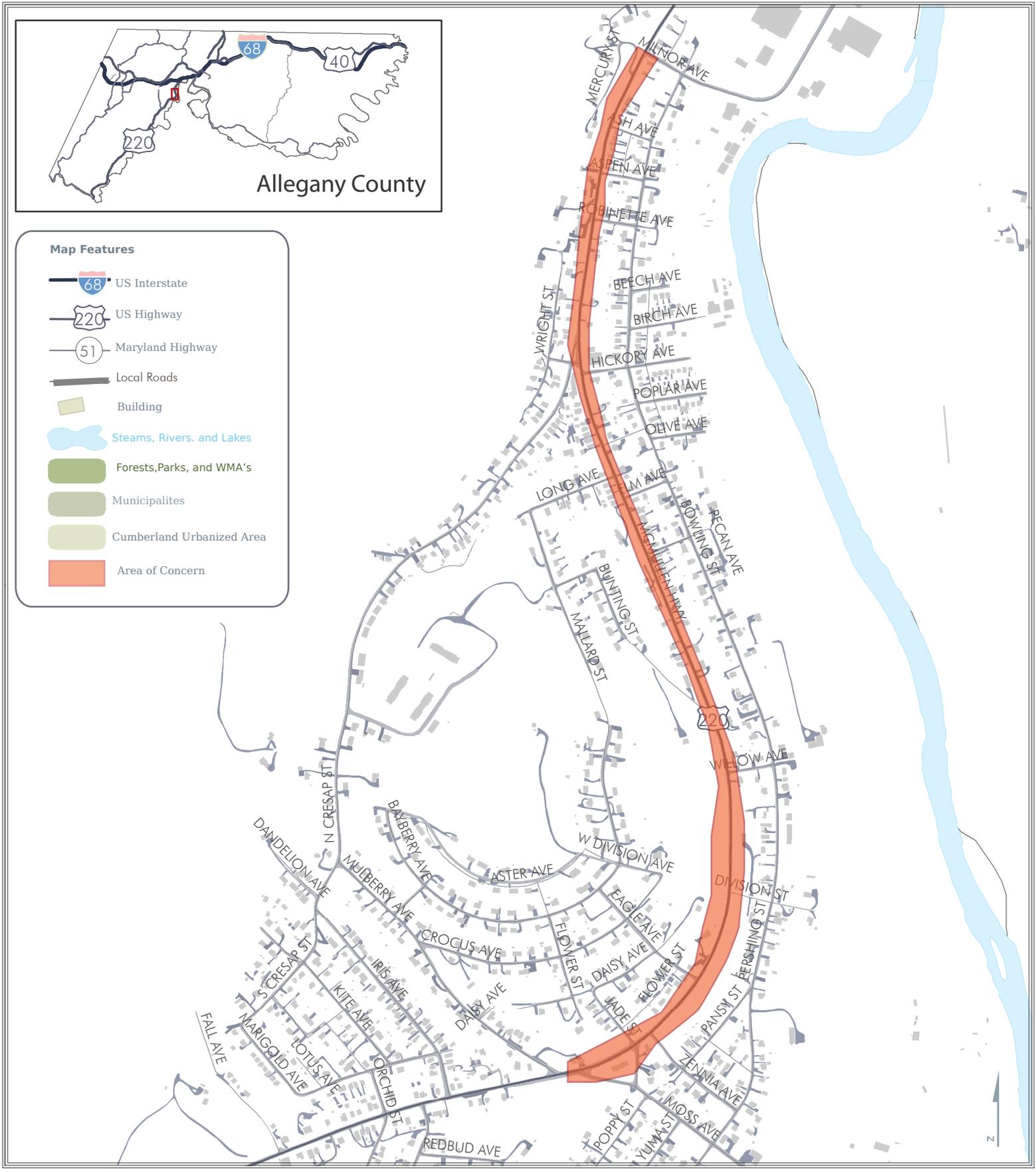
1 inch = 600 feet

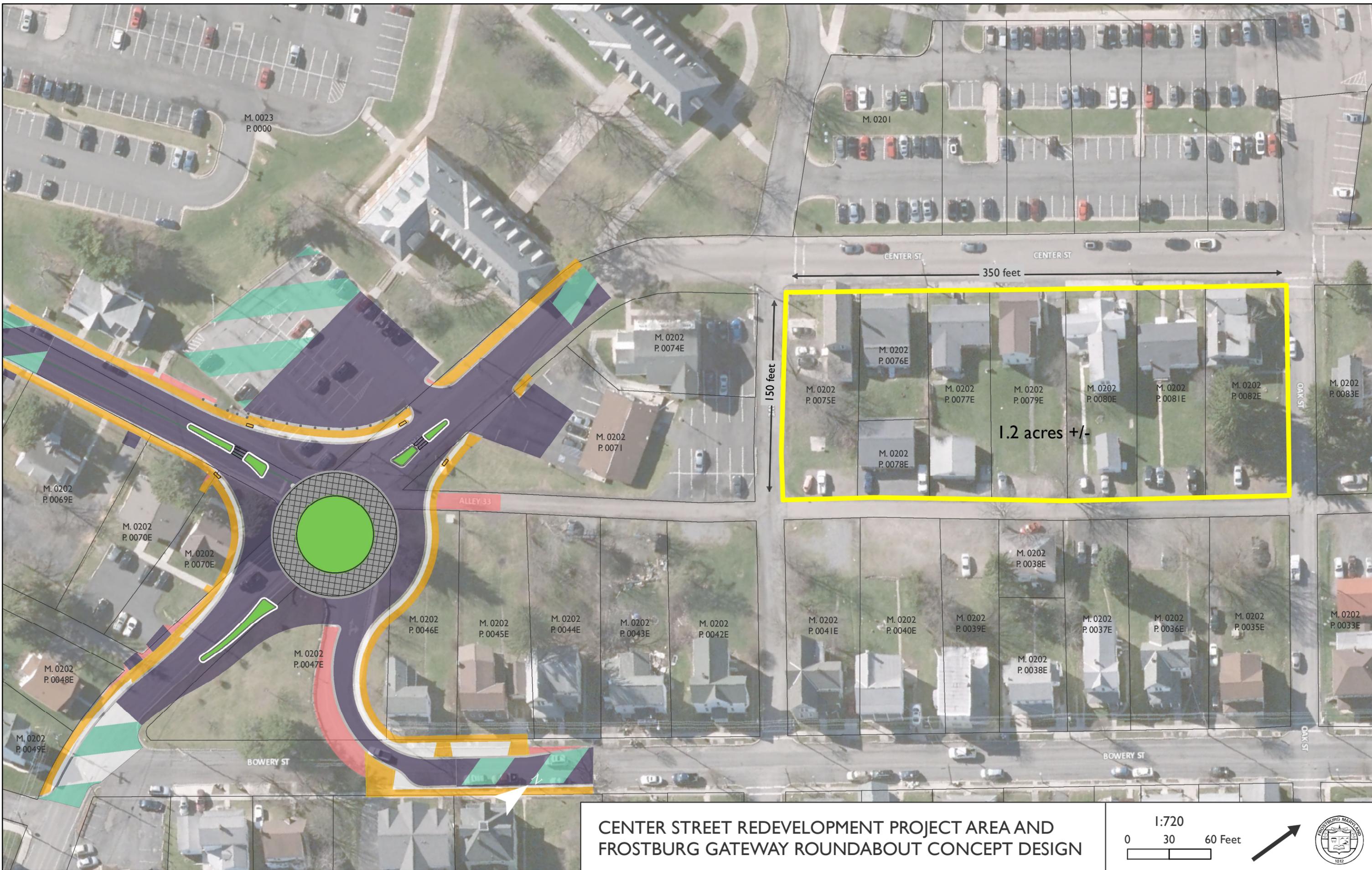
US 220 Bowling Green Drainage Improvements

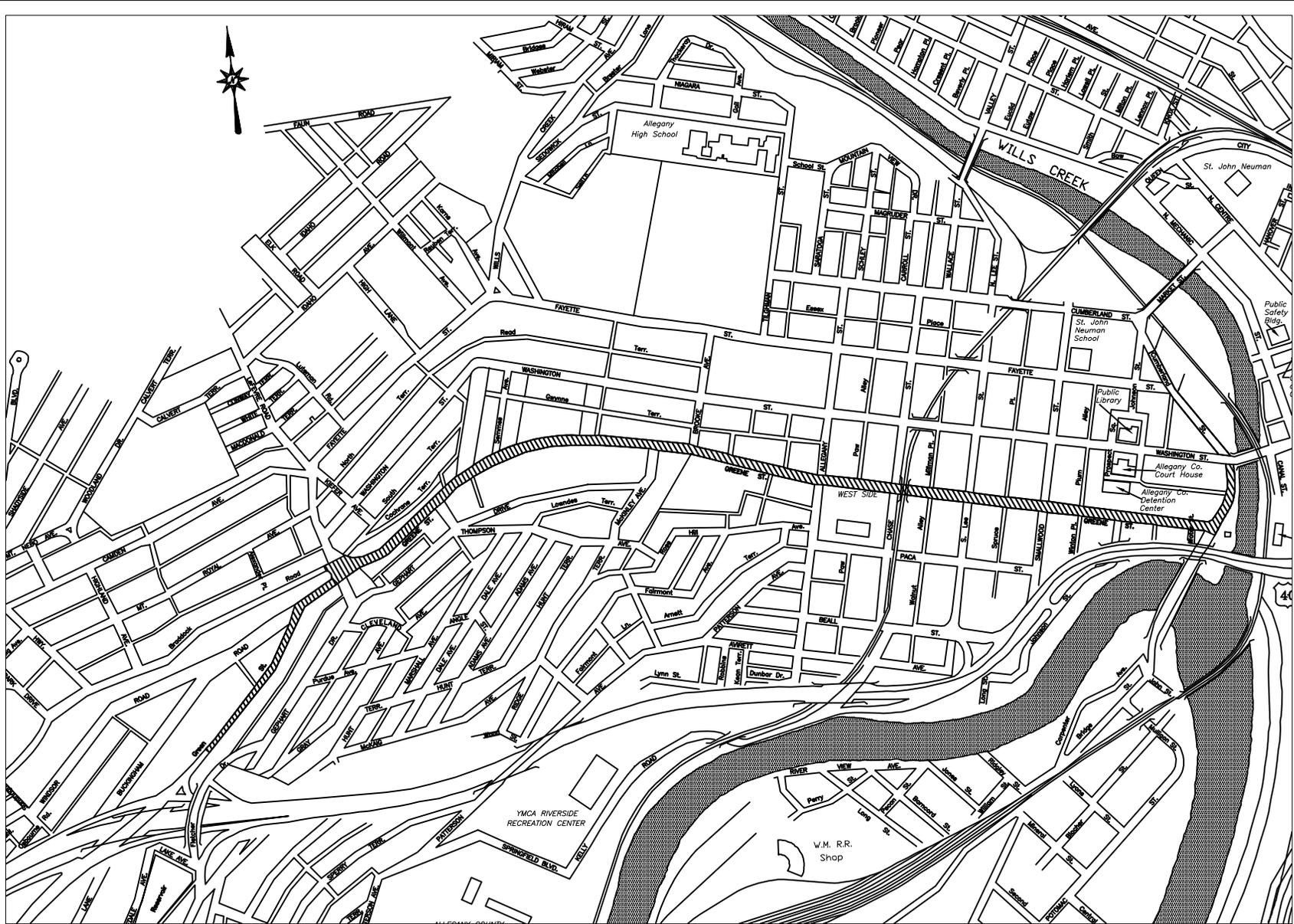


Map Features

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-  Steams, Rivers, and Lakes
-  Forests, Parks, and WMA's
-  Municipalities
-  Cumberland Urbanized Area
-  Area of Concern







CITY OF
CUMBERLAND
MARYLAND

SURVEYED
BY:
DRAWN BY: SAS
CHECKED BY: JRD

TITLE
Greene St, Baltimore St to End of City
Maintenance (US RT 220) Streetscape
Improvements Location Map
SCALE: Not To Scale

DATE
12/13/2012
PROJECT NO.

DRAWING NO.
C2463
SHEET NO.
3 of 5

Mount Savage Road (MD 36) Retrofit

