



I-495 Northern Extension (NEXT)

Staff Review of Environmental Assessment Reports and Design

Board Transportation Committee Meeting

November 10, 2020

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Outline

1. Background

2. Overall Staff Comments and Recommendations

- Traffic Impacts
- Stormwater
- Environmental
- Transit
- Trails and Connectivity

3. Next Steps

Background

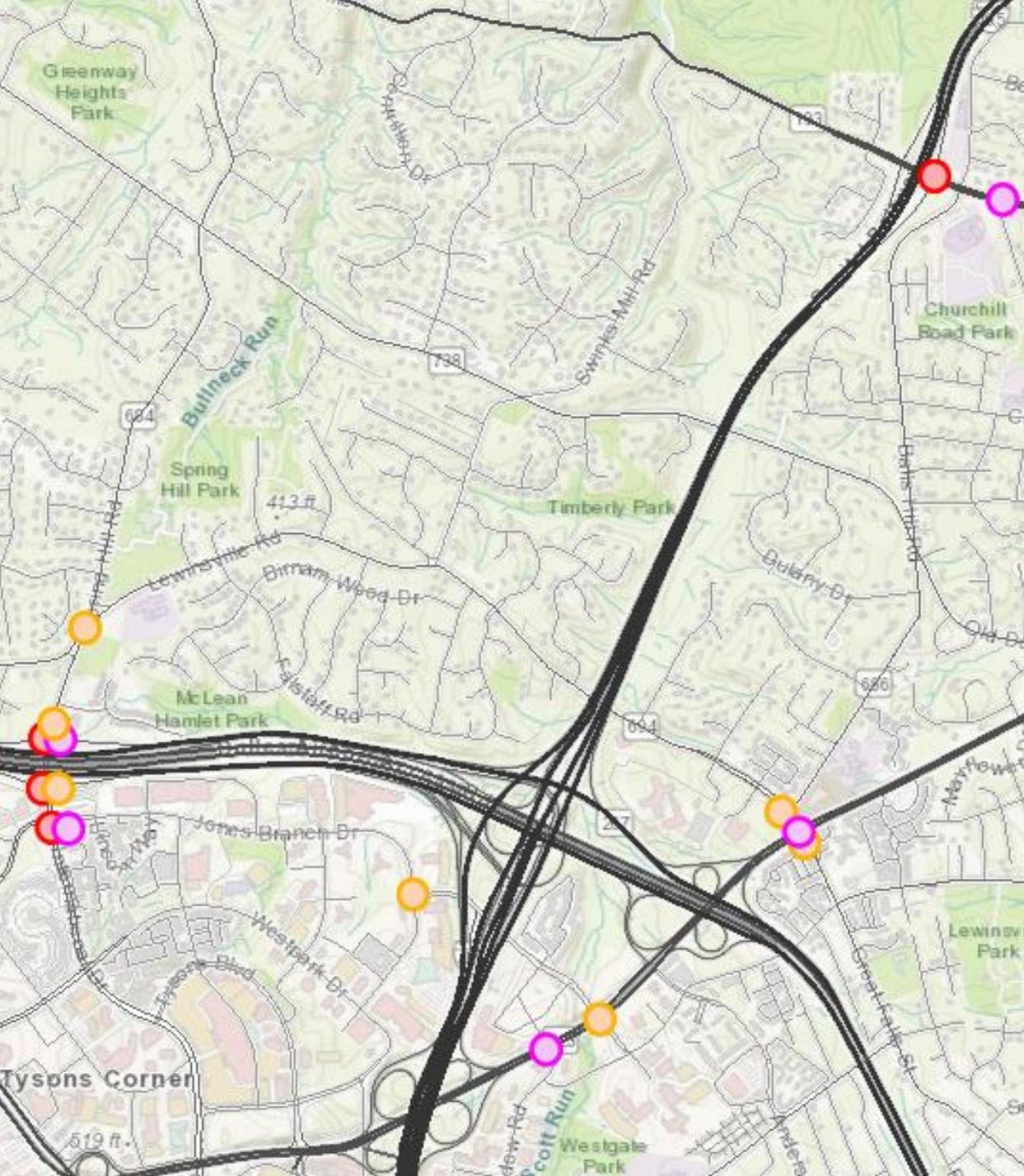
Early 2019

- VDOT started coordination with Fairfax County on traffic analysis, trail plans, and stormwater design.

February 2020

- Draft Environmental Assessment and design plans were made available for review.
- FCDOT coordinated review with multiple County agencies.

- Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (Wastewater and Stormwater)
- Department of Planning and Development
- Park Authority
- Health Department
- Neighborhood and Community Services
- Fire and Rescue
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Fairfax County Public Schools



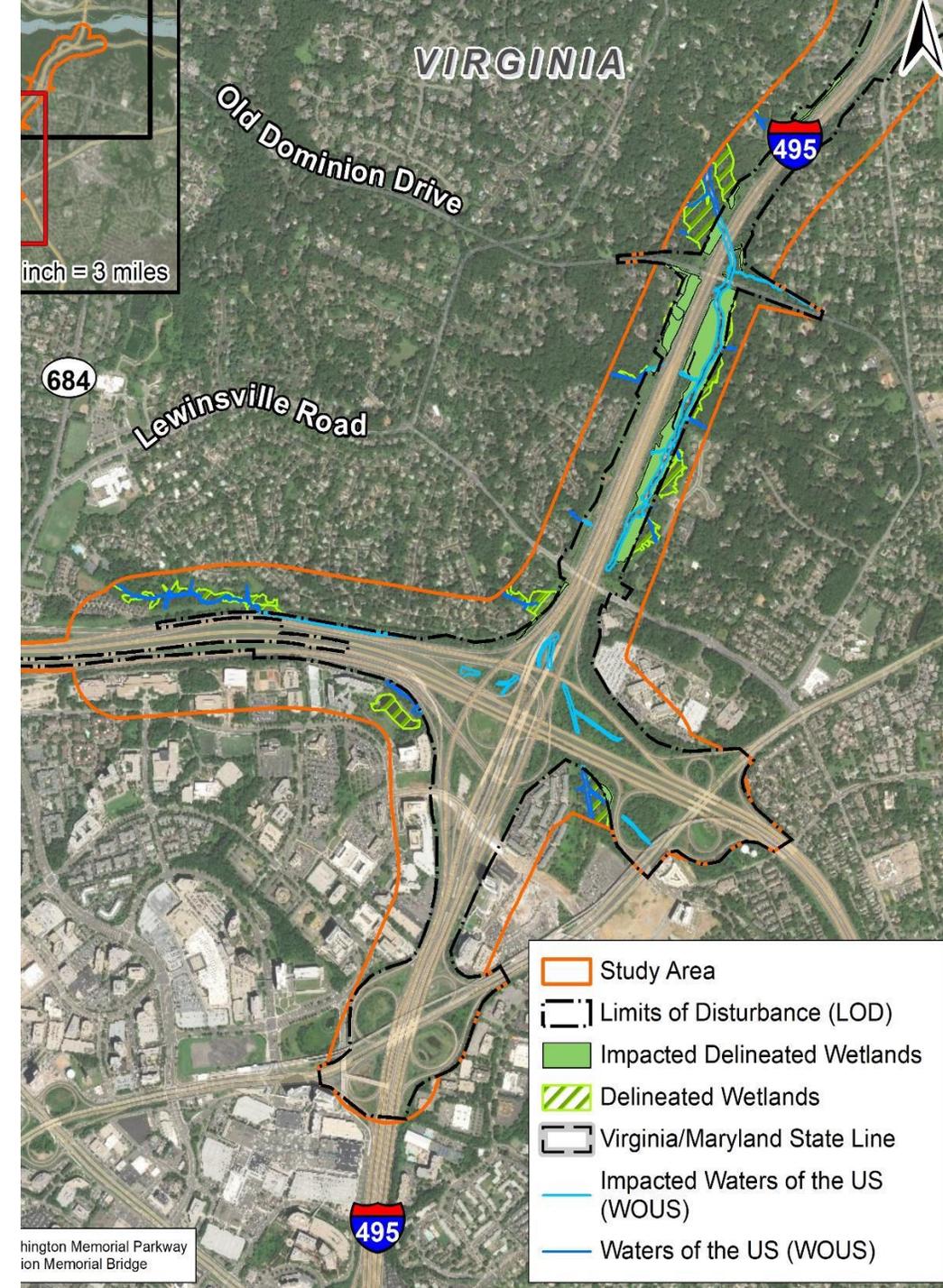
Traffic Impacts

- **2025 Traffic Operations Prior to Maryland Managed Lanes**
 - Increased travel time on General Purpose Lanes, reduced travel time on Express Lanes
 - 4 Intersections in the AM and 1 intersection in the PM show increased delay of up to 20 seconds (●)

- **2025 and 2045 with Maryland Managed Lanes Complete (2025 in ● and 2045 in ●)**
 - 2025: 3 Intersections in the AM and 2 in the PM (Rt 123, Lewinsville, Spring Hill, and Dulles Toll Road) show increase in delay of up to 20 seconds.
 - 2045: 5 intersections in the AM and 3 in the PM (Jones Branch Connector, Jones Branch Drive, Lewinsville and Express Lanes ramps) show increase in delay of up to 95 seconds.

Stormwater

- **Stormwater Requirements**
 - VDOT using outdated state stormwater criteria compared to the County's more stringent local criteria.
- **Stream and Wetland Impacts**
 - 3,000 linear feet of impacted streams and 19.8 acres of impacted wetlands
- **Water Quality Control**
 - VDOT proposed 80% offsite nutrient reduction credits outside Fairfax County versus 20% onsite facilities
- **Water Quantity Control**
 - Piped run-off with no detention and negative impacts to downstream flooding and erosion along Scotts Run
- **Resource Protection Areas (RPA)**
 - Impacts up to 75.5 Acres RPA





Environmental

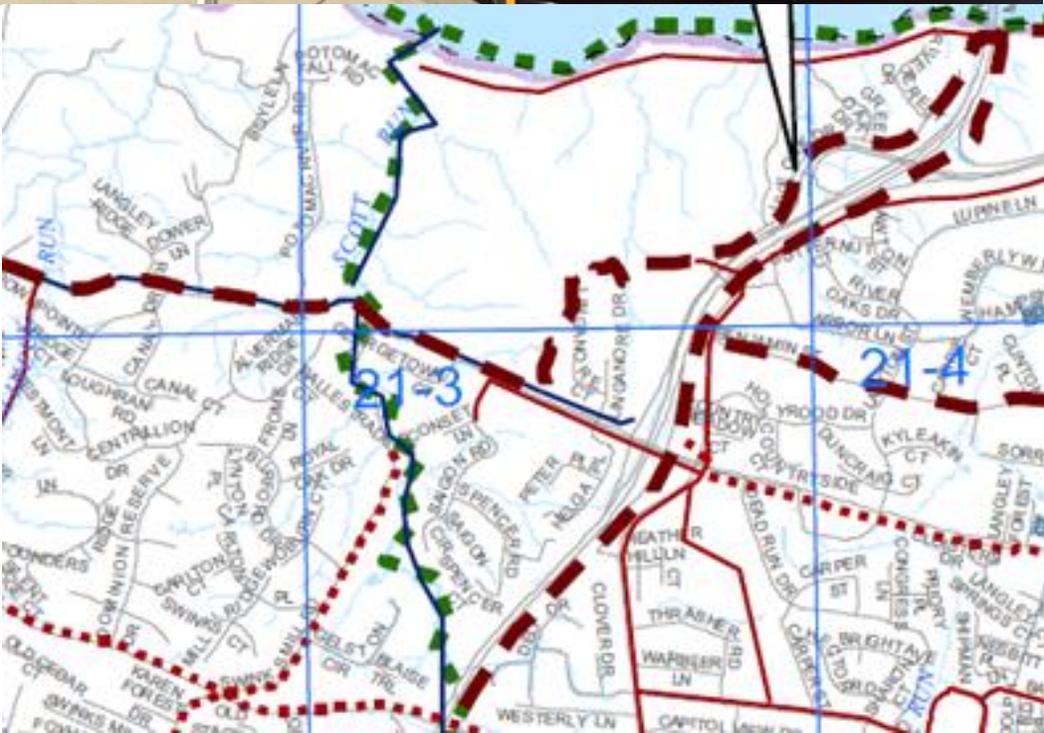
- Impacts to properties in the Virginia Outdoors Plan: GW Parkway, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, and 4.6-acre Langley Club property.
- Impacts to stream corridors and urban forest loss and disturbance.

Transit

- No dedicated funding for transit in the project corridor.
- Separate Transit/TDM study underway

Trails and Connectivity

- The project has provided a major regional trail along I-495 to link VA and MD. Continue connections to nearby activity centers.





Recommendations

Traffic Impacts, Transit, and Trails

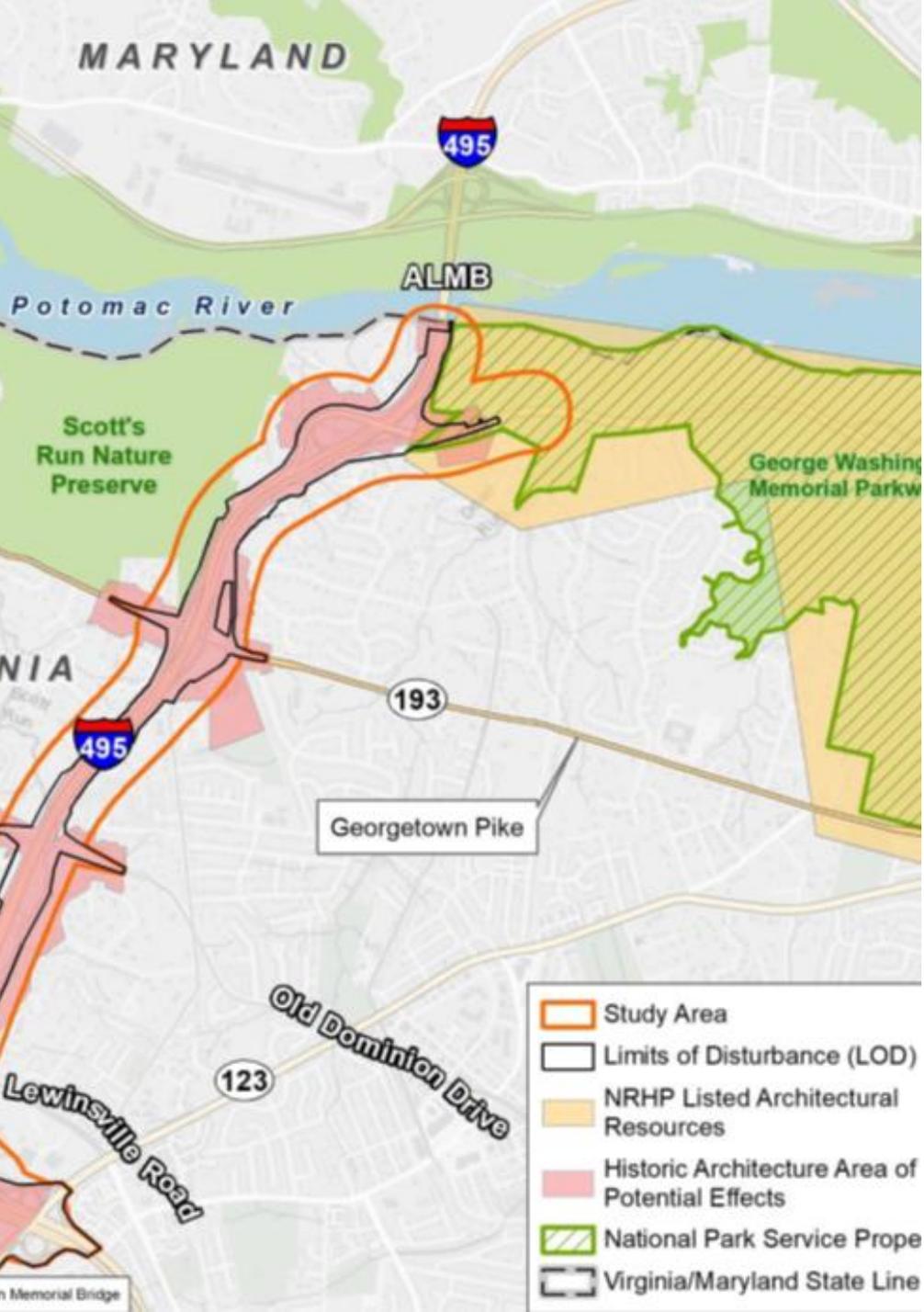
- Prior to Maryland's Managed Lane system completion, mitigate travel time impacts to General Purpose lanes and intersections showing additional delay. Continue close coordination with Maryland on project transitions.
- Evaluate additional mitigation to address intersections that performing poorly compared to No-Build conditions in 2025 and 2045.
- Ensure funding is allocated for local transportation improvements and transit capital and operating expenses to encourage alternatives to Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOV). Coordinate with Fairfax County to enhance connections to the proposed Express Lanes.
- Promote pedestrian and bicycle connections between the major regional trail and Tysons.
- Assure pedestrian and bike facilities along secondary streets throughout project corridor.
- Provide connections and ensure continuation of the future trails on the American Legion Bridge.

Recommendations

Stormwater

- Provide more rigorous stormwater standards for state transportation projects by conforming to the local standards.
- Assess impacts to Dead Run, Scotts Run, Turkey Run, & Potomac River. Pursue mitigation opportunities using watershed management plans, including local stream restorations & constructed wetlands.
- Continue discussions for restoration of Scotts Run stream within VDOT ROW and adjacent to project limits.
- Incorporate onsite water quality treatment through enhanced outfall stabilization practices.
- Include underground detention within the ROW
- Optimize road alignments & designs to prevent/minimize encroachments to the RPA. Adhere to Fairfax County RPA replanting requirements for temporary and permanent impacts
- Assess impacts from previous highway work related to stormwater, plantings, and runoff and include potential mitigation in this project. Assess and mitigate cumulative impacts of existing deficiencies and proposed actions.





Recommendations

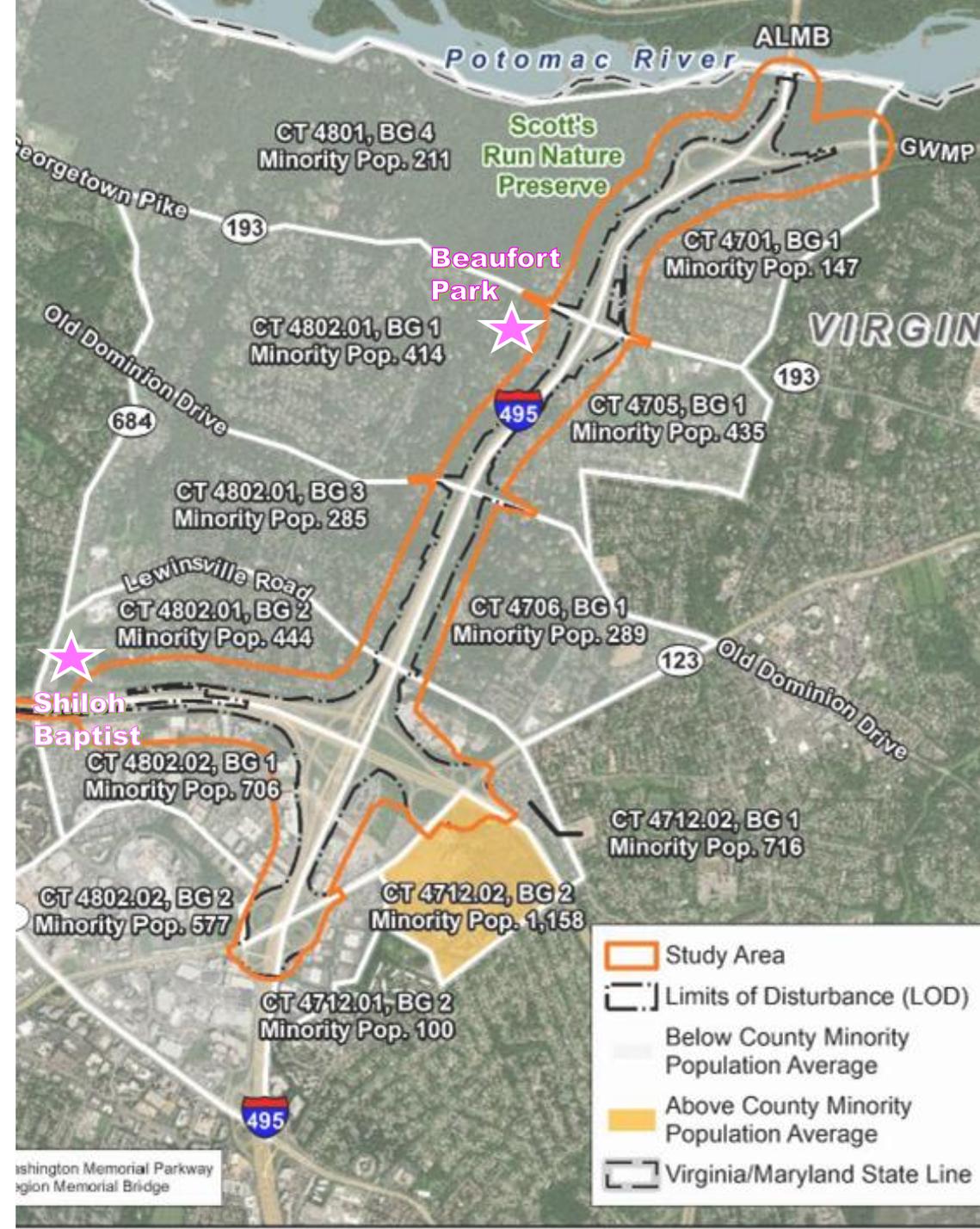
Environmental

- Perform ecological resource surveys for stream corridors, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, and the George Washington Memorial (GW) Parkway.
- Assess, minimize, avoid, and mitigate direct and indirect impacts to properties in the Virginia Outdoors Plan: GW Parkway, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, and 4.6-acre Langley Club property.
- Assess environmental services and the economic, social, and health benefits of the urban forest that would be lost. Compensate for impacts that cannot be avoided.
- Restore disturbed areas. Commit to compensation, soil rebuilding, and restoration of native plant communities.
- Develop and implement an invasives management plan.
- Continue community engagement and outreach efforts.

Recommendations

Historic Sites and Surrounding Communities

- Avoid, minimize, and mitigate direct and indirect impacts to properties on the National Register of Historic Places, including the GW Parkway and Georgetown Pike.
- Avoid, minimize, and mitigate direct and indirect impacts to properties on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites (Beaufort Park & Shiloh Baptist Church).
- Perform outreach to census block groups, especially those with greater than 50% minority population at the southeast quadrant of Route 123 and Dulles Connector Road.
- Identify noise mitigation measures such as potential barrier locations and designs throughout the project corridor.



Next Steps

- Coordinate outreach efforts with VDOT to hear additional comments from the public.
- Continue collaboration with VDOT on the current issues identified.
- Board Action Item, review draft letter to VDOT and provide comments, as needed, by November 16, 2020.
- Bring full set of comments to the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 1, 2020.

Board Feedback on Staff Recommendations