



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 2-2020

Subject: Traffic counts affected by COVID-19 Pandemic

Resource: Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division

Date: March 30, 2020

The COVID-19 viral pandemic has introduced a new level of uncertainty into traffic analysis in the region. It is essential to provide guidance regarding traffic counts taken during closure of public schools, offices, and facilities and the adoption of widespread teleworking in effort to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The Transportation Review Guidelines indicate that “traffic data must reflect existing normal peak-hour conditions at the time of the study.” On March 25, 2020, Governor Hogan announced a month-long extension to the initial two-week school closure. In response, the Planning Department will not accept traffic counts in the County for any development application, which use counts taken between March 16, 2020 and April 24, 2020. Furthermore, the Planning Department will not accept traffic counts along major routes into the University of Maryland campus along US 1 and Adelphi Road taken between March 9, 2020 and April 24, 2020.

The Planning Department and Transportation Planning Section will continue to monitor the on-going situation. Since it appears that the traffic impacts related to COVID-19 will extend into the foreseeable future, the Transportation Planning Section is working with the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement, and the Department of Public Works & Transportation to evaluate the best approaches for using traffic counts and submitting traffic studies during this time.

The value of a traffic study is undermined if the underlying numbers are flawed in some way. However, the department does not want to inhibit development applications from proceeding and will work to develop the appropriate approach so that traffic studies may be submitted, on or before April 17, 2020.

Should you have any questions regarding traffic studies and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, please do not hesitate to contact the Transportation Planning Section, 301-952-3680.