



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Response to County Council work session on Village of Oakland Mills Study*

To: *Mary Kay Sigaty, Council Chairperson
Jon Weinstein, Council Vice Chairperson
Calvin Ball, Councilmember
Jennifer Terrasa, Councilmember
Greg Fox, Councilmember*

From: *✓ Valdis Lazdins, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning*

Date: *October 29, 2015*

This memo addresses the questions that were posed at the recent legislative work session held on October 26, 2015. They included more detail on the timing of the study, study boundaries, project scope, and community engagement.

In terms of timing, DPZ would draft a request for proposal (RFP) within 3-4 weeks and then send it out to potential consultants by the end of November. Timing could be influenced by our internal procurement requirements. Barring any such delays, proposals would be due by early January with interviews scheduled for mid to late January. Allowing another two weeks or so for contract discussions the project should begin by mid-February 2016 and be completed within a 4-6 month period – early to mid-summer.

The study boundaries would consist of a planning area (the neighborhoods surrounding the Village of Oakland Mills) and a study area (a more targeted area consisting of the commercial area and the adjacent uses). The scope of the study would focus on the targeted study area. Community engagement would be broad-based, but targeted in a fair and open way to maximize stakeholder involvement. Again, the public's role would have to be clearly articulated – we do not see this as a visioning process but rather a more disciplined approach to identify and test options for land uses in Oakland Mills that are feasible from a market perspective. Consequently, much of the effort will be to keep the public informed about the process, market opportunities and constraints, and catalytic projects that would help reinvigorate the village center and broader community.

I hope this memo addresses your concerns. Please let me know if you need additional information.

cc: B. Diane Wilson, Chief of Staff