Masonville Multi-Modal Transportation Feasibility Study

Baltimore Metropolitan Council
April 2, 2019
Location

Masonville Cove
Sediment dredged from Baltimore Harbor is placed at the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). Placement began in 2010.

About 500,000 cubic yards of dredged material could be placed at Masonville DMCF each year.

The Masonville placement site is critical for ensuring the safe passage of ships through Baltimore Harbor.
The enhancement and remediation of Masonville Cove was a part of the permitting requirements. Features include the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, a pier, walking paths, restored and created wetlands and shoreline habitat.
2013: Masonville Cove was designated the nation’s first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

- This allows the use of Federal Highway Administration funds and potentially other federal grants
- MDOT MPA and US Fish and Wildlife Service partnered to apply for the FLAP Grant
Public Access Feasibility Study

- The study assessed the feasibility of multi-modal transportation options to Masonville Cove.
To identify feasible multi-modal options that could provide enhanced and safer access to the site from the local communities, as well as the greater Baltimore region.
MDOT MPA hosted two public meetings at Benjamin Franklin High School in 2017
  ◦ The first meeting included displays of the design concepts, discussions of the possible options that were being considered.
  ◦ The second meeting presented results of the analysis that were developed into the final report.

Input from local stakeholders, agencies and organizations
  ◦ The Project Team also received input from community groups, organizations, and local agencies
Shuttle/Shared Mobility Options

- **Contract provider**
  - Contract with bus/shuttle service

- **Locally operated provider**
  - Agreement with existing local organizations to provide service

- **Owner/operator**
  - Renting vans when needed

- **Shared mobility**
  - Utilizing rideshare such as Lyft or Uber
Pedestrian Access Options

- Shared use (biking/walking) path traveling on the westbound side of Frankfurst Avenue
- Improvements to the intersection of Frankfurst Avenue and Hanover Street

Concept 1: Sharrows/Bike box

Concept 2: Cycle track
Pedestrian Access Options

Frankfurth Avenue at S. Hanover Street Intersection

Concept 1: Sharrow Bike Box Design
Marine Options

Kayak
Kayakers can currently access site

Baltimore Water Taxi
Not currently available
MDOT MTA’s BaltimoreLink redesign does not include service along Frankfurst Avenue

In the future, MDOT MTA or Baltimore City may be able to apply for Mobility on Demand grant funds through the Federal Transit Administration
Results of Analysis

- Options Removed from Consideration
  - Intersection Improvements (Bike Sharrows)
  - Shuttle – Contract Provider
  - Shuttle – Locally Operated Provider Partnership
  - Water Taxi
Possible Short-Term Options
- Rideshare (Lyft/Uber)
- Kayak

Possible Long-Term Options
- Shuttle Rental
- Shuttle Purchase
- Intersection Improvements (Cycle Track) and Multi-Modal Path
- MDOT MTA Transit ("last mile" options)
Next Steps

- Gather feedback on community priorities
- Identify Opportunities for synergy and coordination:
  - Hanover Street Bridge Corridor Study
  - Rails to Trails / East Coast Greenway
  - Transit Options
  - Middle Branch Redesign – Planning/Implementation
  - Traffic Calming and Streetscape projects
Feedback Received
Development of Recommendations

Visibility / Awareness
- “I didn’t even know it was there!”
- “It’s tough to find”
- “My children have visited through school but I didn’t know it was also just open to the public”

Logistically Challenging to Visit
- “There’s no bike lane”
- “The nearest bus stop is still a one mile walk away – up a street with no sidewalk”

Hours of Operation & Self-Guided Experience
- “The site isn’t open when I would be able to visit”
- I wasn’t sure what trail I was on or where it led to; difficult to understand the context or background of the site when navigating on your own

Bike/Pedestrian/Trail Connectivity to Other Public Resources in the Area
- Gwynns Falls Trail nearby
- East Coast Greenway
- Middle Branch Park redesign project

- Improve site visibility and build awareness
- Improve physical access to the site
- Enhanced programming at the site/Opportunities to interact with the site in a meaningful way
- Identify opportunities for synergy and coordination with external projects / partners
Improve Site Visibility
Build Awareness

- External signage
- Educational/promotional materials
- Online presence:
  - Website updated
  - Social media posts / frequency & information
  - Other ways Masonville Cove shows up online
Improve Physical Access

Examples could Include:

Vehicles
- Ride-Share Pilot
- Shuttle Service Opportunities

Transit
- MDOT MTA Bus Route Updates
- Greater Baybrook Alliance Transportation Task Force
- MDOT MTA MicroTransit Pilot Project

Via the Water
- Canton Kayak Club
- Baltimore Rowing Club
- Downtown Sailing Center
- Getaway Sailing
- Other Organizations

Gather data!
Continue to participate in these discussions
Build on existing and create new relationships – encourage responsible use of water access
Enhanced Programming

Examples could include:

- Limited extended hours
  - Some evening hours, some Sundays
  - Event-specific
  - Non-event openings

- Decade of Dedication events
  - Captain Trash Wheel 1st Birthday
  - National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day
  - Masonville Bioblitz

- Directional & Informational Signage
  - Trail Map
Coordination with External Projects and Partners

Middle Branch Redesign

- Parks & People-led effort
- Masonville Cove included
- MDOT MPA is a stakeholder in the project planning and implementation process as a property owner
- Focus on safely connecting green spaces
Wrapping Up!

- Promote events and opportunities to visit
- Share new information with all of you
- Track visitor-ship; gather meaningful data
- Continue to participate in larger, external efforts currently underway
- Celebrate a decade at Masonville
~ Discussion ~

Link to the Report:
https://mpa.maryland.gov/greenport/Pages/publications.aspx