

TAKOMA JUNCTION INTERSECTION

Impact of Proposed Reconfiguration on Width of MD 410 and Historic Designations

We have learned that some members of the community have expressed concerns that 1) the proposed reconfiguration of the Takoma Junction intersection will result in the widening of MD 410 in Takoma Park and 2) that the possible reconfiguration of the Takoma Junction intersection will result in the loss of the area's historic designation. *Neither of these is true.*

The possibility that the highway would be widened was addressed by the City Council in 2013 when the City and the State Highway Administration entered into an agreement clarifying the roles and responsibilities of both organizations. The [Agreement](#), executed in February 2013, clearly states the "State has no present or long-range plans for the widening of MD 410 through or in the vicinity of Takoma Park" and notes that state law, enacted in the 1970s, in fact prohibits them from doing so. The Agreement has been incorporated into the City Code.

There are two historic districts within the City of Takoma Park, one that is a [National Register District](#) and one that is local. (See attached maps.) The Takoma Junction intersection and the proposed redevelopment site are located outside of the National Register District. The [local Takoma Park Historic District](#) was established by the Montgomery County Council and included in its [Master Plan of Historic Preservation in June 1992](#). The focus of the local District designation is on the character of the buildings that are included. Several of the properties that may be impacted by the reconfiguration of the intersection or by the City's redevelopment project have been identified by Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission as non-contributing structures that were built outside of the District's primary period of historical importance (late 19th to early 20th century) or have little or no architectural or historical significance. These non-contributing properties include the BY Morrison pavilion (c1920-1940s), the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op (1941), the Takoma Auto Clinic (1946), and the Healey Surgeons (1950) building. As noted in the 1992 amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, roadway modifications within the District boundaries are not prohibited but must be done in a manner that enhances, rather than detracts from the historical ambiance of the area. We believe that the preliminary proposals for the reconfiguration of the intersection will do just that, creating a safer, more comfortable and walkable neighborhood commercial area which will allow greater appreciation of the historical character of the buildings in the District.

**Excerpt of City Manager Comments presented to Takoma Park City Council
June 6, 2018**