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[Opinion](#)

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Plan would eliminate Charles-St. Paul split

10/03/07

By *Virginia Terhune*

The corridor plan recommends several projects for the northern section of Charles Street between 25th Street near Johns Hopkins University and Bellona Avenue in Baltimore County, including:

• Eliminating the Charles-St. Paul street split in Guilford south of Loyola College and Cold Spring Lane by directing downtown traffic left around the curve to St. Paul Street. Drivers headed to Hopkins' Homewood campus would turn right on Charlcothe Road to reach their destination. Right now, the southern end of Charlcothe is blocked off from St. Paul.

• City crews currently are working in the area of St. Paul, Charlcothe and Bedford Place, but on non-related drainage improvements that are scheduled to be completed by mid-to-late November, said Kurt Kocher, spokesman for the city Department of Public Works.

• Creating traffic islands to ease turns into Friends School's campus in Homeland. Building a raised intersection would help slow down traffic at the entrance, according to the plan.

• Streetscaping Charles Street between Bellona Avenue and the city line. The as yet unfunded, \$3 million project by the State Highway Administration would include drainage improvements, repair and resurfacing of the roadway, improving left turns for southbound drivers on to Stevenson Lane and installing a continuous sidewalk along the east side of Charles from Bellona to the city line.

Engineers expect to finish the design in about a year, said Dennis German, chief of the State Highway Administration's Community Design Division.

Other initiatives along Charles Street are already under way. The Charles Street Development Corp. won a promise from the city for \$800,000 to help fund an engineering study of Charles Street with the thought of creating a tourist trolley connecting the Inner Harbor and the Johns Hopkins Homewood campus. The trolley would run north on Charles Street, then return downtown via St. Paul.

Hopkins and the city are also working on a plan called the Charles Street Reconstruction Project to improve traffic flow between 25th Street and University Parkway by reconfiguring lanes and possibly closing at least one cross street.

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The corridor plan is posted at www.baltimorecity.gov/government/heritage/charlesBwyMgtPlan.php.

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