

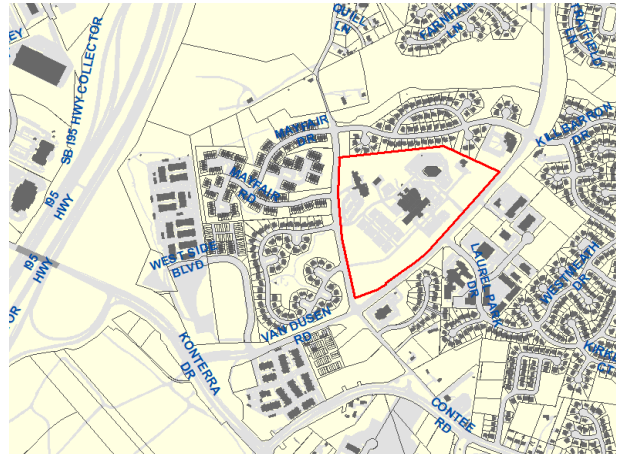


The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
 Prince George's County Planning Department  
 Development Review Division  
 301-952-3530

Note: Staff reports can be accessed at <http://mncppc.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>

**Detailed Site Plan**  
**Departure from Design Standards**  
**Departure from Sign Design Standards**  
**Laurel Hospital Property**

**DSP-19049**  
**DDS-667**  
**DSDS-707**

REQUEST		STAFF RECOMMENDATION	
<b>DSP:</b> Development of a 70,200-square-foot freestanding medical facility and 79,900-square-foot medical office building on the site of the existing Laurel Hospital.		APPROVAL with conditions	
<b>DDS:</b> Departure from design standards for a reduction in the standard parking space size to 9 feet by 18 feet.		APPROVAL	
<b>DSDS:</b> Departure from sign design standards for the number and size of proposed institutional signs.		APPROVAL	
<b>Location:</b> In the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Van Dusen Road and Contee Road.			
Gross Acreage:	48.02		
Zone:	R-R		
Dwelling Units:	N/A		
Gross Floor Area:	151,651 sq. ft.		
Planning Area:	60		
Council District:	01		
Election District:	10		
Municipality:	N/A		
200-Scale Base Map:	208NE06 & 218NE06		
<b>Applicant/Address:</b> University of Maryland Medical System 900 Elkridge Landing Road Linthicum Heights, MD 21090		Planning Board Date:	05/14/2020
<b>Staff Reviewer:</b> Adam Bossi <b>Phone Number:</b> 301-780-8116 <b>Email:</b> Adam.Bossi@ppd.mncppc.org		Planning Board Action Limit:	06/07/2020
		Staff Report Date:	04/29/2020
		Date Accepted:	02/13/2020
		Informational Mailing:	09/06/2020
		Acceptance Mailing:	02/07/2020
		Sign Posting Deadline:	04/14/2020

The Planning Board encourages all interested persons to request to become a person of record for this application. Requests to become a person of record may be made online at [http://www.mncppcapps.org/planning/Person\\_of\\_Record/](http://www.mncppcapps.org/planning/Person_of_Record/). Please call 301-952-3530 for additional information.

## Table of Contents

EVALUATION.....	3
FINDINGS .....	3
1. Request.....	4
2. Development Data Summary.....	4
3. Location .....	5
4. Surrounding Uses .....	5
5. Previous Approvals.....	5
6. Design Features .....	5
COMPLIANCE WITH EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	8
7. Prince George’s County Zoning Ordinance.....	8
8. Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-75128 and Detailed Site Plan DSP-90034.....	16
9. 2010 Prince George’s County Landscape Manual .....	16
10. Prince George’s County Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance .....	16
11. Prince George’s County Tree Canopy Coverage Ordinance.....	17
12. Referral Comments:.....	17
RECOMMENDATION .....	21

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Detailed Site Plan DSP-19049  
Departure from Design Standards DDS-667  
Departure from Sign Design Standards DSDS-707  
Type 2 Tree Conservation Plan TCP2-031-09-02  
Laurel Hospital Property

The Urban Design staff has reviewed the applications for the subject property and presents the following evaluation and findings leading to a recommendation of APPROVAL with conditions of the detailed site plan, and a recommendation of APPROVAL of the departure from design standards, and departure from sign design standards, as described in the Recommendation section of this report.

**EVALUATION**

This detailed site plan and departures were reviewed and evaluated for conformance with the following criteria:

- a. The requirements of the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance in the Rural Residential (R-R) Zone and the site design guidelines;
- b. The requirements of Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-75128, Detailed Site Plan DSP-90034, and its amendments;
- c. The requirements of the 2010 *Prince George's County Landscape Manual*;
- d. The requirements of the Prince George's County Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance;
- e. The requirements of the Prince George's County Tree Canopy Coverage Ordinance; and,
- f. Referral comments.

**FINDINGS**

Based upon the evaluation and analysis of the subject detailed site plan (DSP), the departure from design standards (DDS), and the departure from sign design standards (DSDS), the Urban Design staff recommends the following findings:

1. **Request:** The subject application is for approval of a detailed site plan (DSP) for development of a 70,200-square-foot freestanding medical facility and a 79,900-square-foot medical office building on the site of the existing Laurel Hospital. This development represents the first phase of a larger project to redevelop the hospital site into a medical campus.

The applicant also requests a departure from design standards (DDS) for a reduction in the size of standard parking spaces to 9 feet by 18 feet, and requests a departure from sign design standards (DSDS) for the number and size of the proposed institutional signs.

2. **Development Data Summary:**

	EXISTING	PROPOSED
<b>Zone</b>	R-R	R-R
<b>Use(s)</b>	Hospital	Medical Campus
<b>Gross Acreage</b>	48.02	48.02
<b>Total Gross Floor Area</b>	389,397 sq. ft.	151,651 sq. ft.

#### OTHER DEVELOPMENT DATA

##### Parking Spaces

Facility on Medical Campus	Required	Provided**
Freestanding Medical Facility (1 space/200 sq. ft.)	351	355
Medical Office Building (1space/200 sq. ft.)	400	400
Handicap-Accessible*	22	22
Handicap Van-Accessible*	16	16
<b>Total Parking***</b>	751	755

**Note:** \*Total required and provided parking includes accessible and van-accessible spaces.

\*\*A companion case, DDS-667, is recommended for approval to reduce the standard parking space size from 9.5 feet by 19 feet to 9 by 18 feet for all parking spaces proposed in this DSP.

\*\*\*A total of 1,400 parking spaces will be provided on the full medical campus site. This will satisfy the requirements for all uses on the property once the existing hospital is demolished.

### Loading Spaces

Use	Required	Provided
Freestanding Medical Facility	1	1
Medical Office Building	1	1

3. **Location:** The subject property is in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Van Dusen Road and Contee Road. The property is further located in Council District 1 and Planning Area 60.
4. **Surrounding Uses:** The subject property is bounded by single-family detached dwellings and Oseh Shalom Temple to the north, which are located in the City of Laurel. The southern and eastern sides of the property are bound by Van Dusen Road, with the Greater Laurel Professional Park within the City of Laurel beyond. Contee Road bounds the site to the west, with a mix of single-family detached residential and single-family attached (townhouse) residential development in the Rural Residential (R-R) and Residential Medium Development Zones located beyond.
5. **Previous Approvals:** The property was originally developed in the mid-1970s, with a 255,000-square-foot public hospital. Since then, an additional 100,125 square feet of development was added to the property, including a 4,125-square-foot MRI building in 1989, a 60,000-square-foot medical office building in 1990 (DSP-90034), and a 36,000-square-foot emergency room in 1994.

On April 19, 1990, the Prince George's County Planning Board approved DSP-90034 (PGCPB Resolution No. 90-151) for the 60,000-square-foot medical office building in the northern portion of the site. DSP-90034-01 was approved by the Planning Director in 1992, for the addition of bioretention areas and a generator enclosure. On May 30, 2000, the Planning Board approved DSP-90034-02 (PGCPB Resolution No. 00-42) for a 6,450-square-foot addition to the fourth floor of the hospital building.

In 1995, the Planning Board approved DSDS-510 (PGCPB Resolution No. 95-384) to allow an increase in the building-mounted sign area and for the provision of three additional freestanding signs.

In 2018, the Prince George's County District Council approved Council Bill CB-56-2018 to add Footnote 130 to the residential zone use table (Section 27-441 of the Zoning Ordinance), to allow for the conversion of a hospital to a health campus.

The site also has an approved Stormwater Management (SWM) Concept Plan, 53967-2018-01, which is valid through April 12, 2022.

6. **Design Features:** The subject 48.02-acre site is currently developed with a 200-bed hospital, wound care facility, medical office building, heating plant, and the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center. This DSP proposes Phase 1 of a master plan to redevelop the hospital site into a health campus. The scope of Phase 1 includes the construction of a 70,200-square-foot freestanding medical facility, a 79,900-square-foot medical office building, and a 1,551-square-foot MRI building, on approximately 10 acres in the southwest quadrant of the property. Most of the area proposed for development is vacant. An existing

parking lot occupies a portion of this area and is proposed to be razed as part of this DSP. Upon the opening of the freestanding medical facility and medical office building, the existing hospital is planned to be decommissioned and demolished. Future development is envisioned to include a second medical office building and MRI facility. The existing wound care facility, medical office building, heating plant, and the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center are proposed to remain.

The proposed freestanding medical facility is located in the southwest corner of the site, with the medical office building located to its north. The two buildings are connected by an enclosed, elevated walkway. The MRI building is shown abutting the west side of the elevated walkway, with a shared loading, mechanical, and service area abutting the east side of the walkway, between the buildings. Parking is provided on the east and west sides of each building. Access to the Phase 1 development area includes driveway entrances on Contee Road, across from Ironbridge Lane and Van Dusen Road, to the southeast of the freestanding medical facility. Two connections to an existing access road to the north are provided to the new eastern and western parking lots. Five-foot-wide sidewalks are proposed on the north side of Van Dusen Road and east side of Contee Road, as well as along the periphery of each building and the eastern parking lots. No changes to the vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure outside of the Phase 1 development area are proposed.

The freestanding medical facility is designed to provide community medical services and is to include an emergency department, ambulatory care, labs, clinics, and imaging center. The medical office building will provide physician office space, outpatient services, and a small, ground floor area for ancillary services consisting of a restaurant and/or retail space.



*Figure 1: Phase 1 Development*

## Architecture

The proposed 2-story, 70,200-square-foot, freestanding medical facility building proposes a flat roof height of approximately 31 feet, and maximum parapet height of approximately 40 feet. The building is to be set into the sloping site, with the full height of the building visible on its northern and western elevations and a single-story profile visible on its southern and eastern sides. The façade of the building is composed of a combination of brick and stone veneer in red and gray colors, and white metal accent panels. The parapet is faced with a gray louvered metal panel screen. Cantilevered metal panel canopy roofs are provided at all entry points to the building. The two main entrances to the building are covered by larger metal canopy roofs supported by structural steel columns. One of the main entrances faces Contee Road and the second opens to the parking lot on the east side of the building. Ample fenestration is provided on the northern, southern, and western façades. A helicopter pad is provided to the east of the building. Development of the freestanding medical facility and associated site features will occupy approximately 5.5 acres.



*Figure 2: North Elevation – Freestanding Medical Facility*

The proposed 4-story, 79,900-square-foot medical office building is approximately 67 feet in height at the top of its parapet. The façade of the building is comprised of a combination of red and gray colored brick and stone veneer and gray metal paneling. The material selection compliments that of the freestanding medical facility. The geometric composition of surfacing treatments on the rectangular building add interest and depth. Covered entryways are provided on the west side of the building facing Contee Road and east side of the building facing the parking lot. Curbside drop-off areas are provided, adjacent to each of these building entrances. A patio is provided on the north side of the building. Ample fenestration is provided on all levels of the building.



*Figure 3: East Elevation – Medical Office Building*



## Lighting

The photometric plan demonstrates that adequate exterior lighting is provided for the freestanding medical facility, medical office building, and associated parking areas. A detail has been provided showing the use of full cut-off optics for pole-mounted exterior lighting. Details are not provided for building-mounted lights.

## Signage

The DSP proposes a total of 17 signs, including 13 building-mounted signs and 4 freestanding monument signs. Monument signs are proposed at driveway entrances to the site off Contee and Van Dusen Roads, with a single monument identity sign provided at the intersection of these two roads. A series of three identity signs are proposed to be mounted to the freestanding medical facility, with 10 signs to be mounted to the medical office building. The applicant has requested a DSDS, discussed in Finding 7, to allow for a larger number of total signs and larger area for some signs, as part of this DSP.

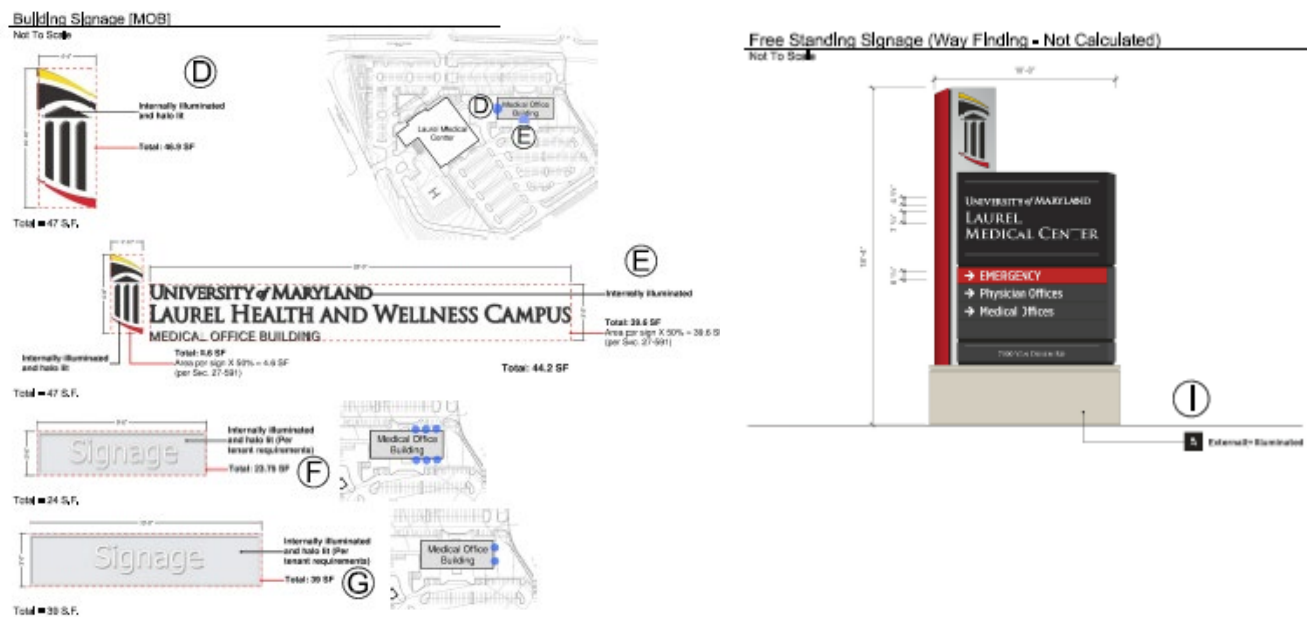


Figure 4: Signage Examples

## COMPLIANCE WITH EVALUATION CRITERIA

7. **Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance:** The DSP application has been reviewed for compliance with the requirements of the R-R Zone of the Zoning Ordinance:

- a. In accordance with Footnote 130 of the residential use table in Section 27-441, the existing hospital site in the R-R Zone is permitted to be redeveloped into a health campus, subject to approval of a DSP. Specifically, Footnote 130 states:

**Conversion of Hospital to Health Campus is subject to the requirements listed in Section 27-362(a)(2) and (3) of this Subtitle, except Sections 27-362(a)(2)(D) and (G) shall not apply. Not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the site shall be devoted to green area. Wherever a**



**special exception is required within Section 27-362 instead, a detailed site plan shall be required and approved in accordance with Part 3 Division 9 of this Subtitle. The Health Campus may include a state licensed freestanding medical facility in addition to or in lieu of a general acute care hospital.**

The subject DSP was submitted pursuant to this requirement and the plan indicates that the site provides approximately 38 percent in green area. The health campus will provide a state licensed freestanding medical facility, as allowed by this footnote. In addition, Section 27-362(a)(2) of the Zoning Ordinance, Health Campus, Special Requirements, requires that:

**(2) Special requirements.**

- (A) The subject property shall contain at least twenty-five (25) contiguous acres, except as provided in paragraph (5), below;**

The subject property contains 48.02 acres, satisfying this requirement.

- (B) The subject property shall have frontage on, and direct vehicular access to, a street with sufficient capacity to accommodate the traffic generated by the campus;**

The subject property has frontage on, and direct vehicular access to, Contee Road and Van Dusen Road. The applicant's Trip Generation Report shows that the proposed Phase 1 development of the property will result in lower trip generation figures than existing conditions.

- (C) All buildings and structures shall be located at least:**

- (i) Fifty (50) feet from all adjoining property lines (except street lines); and**

- (ii) Twenty-five (25) feet from all adjoining street lines;**

The freestanding medical facility and medical office building are located greater than 50 feet from all adjoining property lines and greater than 25 feet from all adjoining street lines, in conformance with this requirement.

- (E) All of the parking and loading needs of employees and residents of, and visitors and delivery services to, the site shall be met on the subject property;**

Parking and loading needs of employees, residents, visitors, and delivery services are met on the subject property for both the freestanding medical facility and medical office building. The DSP provides adequate parking, curbside drop-off and pick-up areas,

appropriate loading spaces, and dedicated space for ambulance service at the freestanding medical facility.

- (F) All perimeter setback areas of the site shall be buffered or screened in accordance with the provisions of the Landscape Manual. The applicant shall demonstrate that the required buffer yards will provide reasonable sight and sound barriers;**

Perimeter setback areas of the Phase 1 development site are buffered, in accordance with the provisions of the 2010 *Prince George's County Landscape Manual* (Landscape Manual), as detailed in Finding 9, and will serve as reasonable sight and sound barriers. Conformance with the requirements of the Landscape Manual, including those for required bufferyards, for areas outside of the Phase 1 development envelope was previously determined by the Planning Board's approval of DSP-90034-02.

- (H) Regulations restricting location, height, coverage, density, frontage, and yards, of buildings and structures, as specified for the zone in which such campus is located, shall not apply to uses or structures provided for in this Section. The dimensions and percentages shown on the approved site plan shall constitute the regulations for development under a given Special Exception.**

In accordance with CB-56-2018, wherever a special exception is required within Section 27-362 instead, a DSP shall be required and approved, in accordance with Part 3, Division 9, of this Subtitle. Upon approval of this DSP, the dimensions and percentages shown shall constitute the regulations for Phase 1 of the conversion of the hospital site into a health campus.

- (I) Notwithstanding Section 27-118.01, more than one (1) building may be located on a lot containing a one-family dwelling.**

This requirement is not applicable, as the subject site does not include a one-family dwelling.

Section 27-362(a)(3) requires that:

**(3) Uses.**

- (A) Only those uses which appear on an approved site plan shall be permitted on the health campus. The District Council may only approve those uses which provide a harmonious, balanced mix of medical, residential, and limited commercial uses, and which are necessary to meet the needs of the campus. Every health campus shall contain a general acute care hospital developed as the core of the campus. Other uses may include, (but need not be limited to) the following:**

- (i) Medical facilities, including professional offices, medical laboratories and testing facilities, clinical facilities, professional or paramedical training centers, ambulatory care facilities, and accessory uses. Business signs in conjunction with approved medical facilities shall only be permitted in accordance with the provisions of Part 12 of this Subtitle applicable to the C-O Zone;**
- (ii) Nursing and care homes; medical day care, adult day care, respite care, and day care for sick children (all of which may include areas beyond the health campus as their service area); rental dwelling units for the use of staff, visitors, and elderly or physically handicapped persons; one (1) motel or hotel as an integral part of the campus; provided that day care for sick children shall only be provided in a licensed hospital unit.**
- (iii) Retail commercial and service uses (including accessory warehousing and laundry facilities), which are strictly related and subordinate to the medical/residential character of the campus, and which directly serve the residents, employees and guests of the campus or other campuses or medical facilities. The commercial uses shall be chosen to reflect their local orientation to the immediate campus vicinity, and shall be of such size and scope as to not interfere with existing or proposed retail uses located in the off-campus area. Business signs in conjunction with retail commercial uses shall only be permitted in accordance with the provisions of Part 12 of this Subtitle applicable to the commercial zones (other than the C-O Zone); and,**
- (iv) Recreational and social uses, such as swimming pools, tennis courts, athletic facilities, community centers, assembly halls, or private educational institutions, limited to use by only campus residents, employees, and guests.**

The subject DSP shares a vision for full redevelopment of the existing hospital site into a health care campus that will provide a balanced mix of uses necessary to meet the needs of the campus and community. Phase 1 development provided by the subject DSP includes the freestanding medical facility, in lieu of an acute care hospital, in accordance with Section 27-441(b), Footnote 130. Phase 1 also provides for development of a medical office building, including professional offices, medical laboratories, outpatient, and other clinical care services. Uses proposed in Phase 1 conform to this requirement. While future development will be subject to DSP

review, an illustrative full development plan shows additional facilities and uses to be provided in-line with these requirements.

- c. The DSP is in conformance with the applicable site design guidelines contained in Section 27-274 of the Zoning Ordinance, as cross-referenced in Section 27-283 of the Zoning Ordinance. For example, the subject development provides pedestrian access to the site from the public right-of-way, and the architecture proposed for the buildings employ a variety of architectural features and designs, such as projections, colors, and materials.
- d. **Departure from Design Standards DDS-667:** The applicant requires a departure from Section 27-558(a) of the Zoning Ordinance, which requires nonparallel standard parking spaces to be 9.5 feet by 19 feet, but allows up to one-third of the required spaces to be compact, measuring 8 feet by 16.5 feet. The applicant is proposing 9-foot by 18-foot standard parking spaces, with no compact spaces. The applicant has submitted a statement of justification to address the required findings in Section 27-239.01(b)(7)(A) of the Zoning Ordinance, in order for the Planning Board to grant the departure:

**(i) The purposes of this subtitle will be equally well or better served by the applicant's proposal;**

The reduction in size of the parking spaces for the proposed development will sufficiently provide off-street parking spaces for all the needs of the project. Wider drive aisles are provided in areas of the site where they will benefit vehicular circulation. In addition, spaces sized 9 feet by 18 feet have been used in multiple health care facilities in the region.

**(ii) The departure is the minimum necessary, given the specific circumstances of the request;**

The departure of six inches in width and one foot in length is the minimum necessary to provide wider drive aisles in portions of the Phase 1 development area. The departure will enable the parking lots to function efficiently and to provide adequate parking for employees, patients, service providers, and visitors.

**(iii) The departure is necessary in order to alleviate circumstances which are unique to the site or prevalent in areas of the County developed prior to November 29, 1949;**

The proposed size of the parking spaces is a standard that other medically oriented properties in the region are utilizing, in order to alleviate the high parking requirement with low turnover.

**(iv) The departure will not impair the visual, functional, or environmental quality or integrity of the site or of the surrounding neighborhood.**

The reduced parking space size will still accommodate vehicles while allowing adequate parking spaces in the same amount of area, thus reducing the disturbed area of the site.

Based on the analysis above, staff recommends that the Planning Board approve the departure request to reduce the dimensions of the proposed standard parking spaces from 9.5 feet by 19 feet, to 9 feet by 18 feet.

- e. **Departure from Sign Design Standards DSDS-707:** A total of 17 freestanding and building-mounted signs are proposed for this development. These signs include 3 freestanding entrance identification signs, 1 freestanding monument sign identifying the Laurel Medical Center campus, and 13 building-mounted signs identifying building names, entrances, and tenant identification. As an institutional development, associated signage is required to conform to the requirements of Section 27-617(a) of the Zoning Ordinance. The applicant has requested a DSDS, in accordance with Section-27-612 of the Zoning Ordinance, to allow for taller, larger, and greater quantity of signs. Signage provided differs from the requirements of Section 27-617, as follows:

**(a) In any zone (except Comprehensive Design and Mixed Use Zones) where a church; library; school; hospital; fire station; community center; day care center for children; service, fraternal, or civic organizations; or other similar institution is allowed, a sign may be erected. Institutional signs shall meet the following design standards:**

**(1) Maximum area for each sign - 48 square feet.**

Each proposed, building-mounted sign is less than 48 square feet. Individual freestanding and monument sign areas are shown in the departure request as 48 square feet or less. However, the area for freestanding signs is not identified on the DSP and appears to be much greater than 48 square feet. The sign calculations table provided on the DSP should be corrected to reflect individual area of each of the 17 signs provided. Staff has included a condition in the Recommendations section for this detail to be included on plans.

**(2) Maximum height - 8 feet above finished grade at base of sign.**

Three freestanding signs are proposed to be approximately 18.5 feet in height above finished grade at the base of signs. The site identification monument sign is proposed to be slightly greater than 14 feet in height above finished grade at the base of the sign. Signage is not shown on architectural elevations for either building. Therefore, staff has included a condition in the Recommendation section for the DSP to be revised to identify signage locations on the architectural elevations.

Given the scale of each building and the overall medical campus, the freestanding signs should be clearly visible, so having a height greater than 8 feet is appropriate for this development.

- (3) **Minimum setback - 15 feet from adjoining land in any Residential Zone (or land proposed to be used for residential purposes in a Comprehensive Design, Mixed Use, or Planned Community Zone).**

All proposed signage conforms to this criterion.

- (4) **Type allowed - freestanding or attached to a building.**

Freestanding and building-mounted signage is proposed.

- (5) **Maximum number - 1 per street the property fronts on (must face street frontage).**

Under this provision, a total of two signs would be allowed, as the property fronts on two streets. A total of 17 signs are proposed for both the freestanding medical facility and medical office building. Three freestanding signs are proposed, one each at site access point off of Contee Road, and one at the entrance off of Van Dusen Road. A fourth, freestanding, monument, identity sign is proposed at the corner of Contee and Van Dusen Roads. For both buildings, a total of 13 building-mounted signs are proposed. These include University of Maryland Medical Center identity signs, identity signage for service areas, such as the emergency department, and tenant identity signage for the medical office building.

Section 27-239.01(b)(7)(A) provides that, in order for the Planning Board to grant the departure, it shall make the following findings:

- (i) **The purposes of this Subtitle will be equally well or better served by the applicant's proposal.**

Section 27-589(a) of the Zoning Ordinance contains the following purposes for regulating signs:

- (1) **To promote the health, safety, and welfare of the present and future inhabitants of the Regional District;**
- (2) **To encourage and protect the appropriate use of land, buildings, and structures;**
- (3) **To regulate unsightly and detrimental signs which could depreciate the value of property and discourage quality development in the Regional District;**
- (4) **To regulate signs which are a hazard to safe motor-vehicle operation;**

- (5) To eliminate structurally unsafe signs which endanger a building, structure, or the public;**
- (6) To prevent the proliferation of signs that could detract from the scenic qualities of the landscape or the attractiveness of development; and**
- (7) To control the location and size of signs, so as to provide for adequate identification and advertisement in a manner that is compatible with land uses in the Regional District.**

In general, the purposes of the sign regulations are to promote the health, safety, and welfare of residents, workers, and motorists by increasing and enhancing sign visibility and readability, to regulate unsightly and detrimental signs, which could depreciate the value of the property, to prevent the proliferation of signs that could detract from the attractiveness of development, and to control scale, consistent with the intended advertising purposes.

The proposed signs are sufficiently sized and located so motorists can easily find the campus and its entrances. The proposed signs will not impede visibility for drivers entering or exiting the site. Given the large size of the property, the signs will not create an appearance of proliferation. The signs will establish a sense of place, an identity for the campus at a major intersection.

**(ii) The departure is the minimum necessary, given the specific circumstances of the request.**

The applicant provided an analysis of the existing signs on the property, which will largely be replaced by the proposed signs. They indicate that the building-mounted signs will total less area than the existing large Laurel Hospital Center sign. In addition, the property has two existing freestanding signs, which will be removed and replaced, with two new signs added. Given the specific circumstances of this request, the applicant states that the departure is the minimum necessary to support the goals and needs of this multi-phased medical campus.

**(iii) The departure is necessary in order to alleviate circumstances which are unique to the site or prevalent in areas of the County developed prior to November 29, 1949.**

The applicant presents that one of the purposes of the multiple signs is to provide needed direction for those patrons seeking emergency services, especially at night. This situation is unique to this site as it is a large campus with a building that provides 24-hour emergency medical services. Therefore, adequate identification is important to the general welfare of the residents of the County.



- (iv) **The departure will not impair the visual, functional or environmental quality or integrity of the site or of the surrounding neighborhood.**

The placement of the signs will not impair the visual or functional integrity of the surrounding neighborhood. The buildings are set back over 140 feet from the roadways, and so the additional freestanding signs will allow for better direction into the site. The additional building-mounted signs will then allow for navigation for patrons on the site. The signs will not attract undue attention, but will provide for adequate identification and are compatible with the overall campus.

Based on the analysis above, staff recommends that the Planning Board approve the departure request for the proposed signage program, which is designed at an appropriate scale for the size and type of development.

8. **Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-75128 and Detailed Site Plan DSP-90034:** These cases were previously approved by the Planning Board for development on the existing Laurel Hospital site. Case files and resolutions for these decisions are unavailable. The Planning Board approved DSP-90034-02 (PGCPB Resolution No. 00-42) on March 30, 2000 for a fourth-floor addition to the existing hospital building. The Board's decision included no conditions of approval.
9. **2010 Prince George's County Landscape Manual:** Development proposed by this DSP is subject to Section 4.2, Requirements for Landscape Strips Along Streets; Section 4.3-2, Parking Lot Interior Requirements; Section 4.4, Screening Requirements; and Section 4.9, Sustainable Landscaping Requirements. Staff finds the proposal conforms with the requirements of Section 4.2, Section 4.4, and Section 4.9 of the Landscape Manual.

Regarding Section 4.3-2, requirements for interior planting of parking lots greater than 50,000 square feet, the DSP shows a single proposed parking area of 280,747 square feet. On the landscape plan, the schedule for Section 4.3-2 is not correct and as provided is deficient by not including parking lot islands, where required, or by not providing the higher ratio of shade tree plantings required. Staff determined that the proposed parking is not a single large lot and requested the applicant to demonstrate conformance with the requirements of Section 4.3-2 for the separate areas of the parking lot. The applicant provided supplemental information dated April 24, 2020, separating the parking into three lots. In doing so, the applicant was able to show that each lot meets or slightly exceeds the minimum interior landscape area and shade tree requirements of Section 4.3-2, applicable to each individual parking area. Therefore, prior to certification of the DSP, staff recommends the DSP and landscape schedules be updated to reflect the applicant's latest analysis, demonstrating conformance with Section 4.3-2.

10. **Prince George's County Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance:** The site is subject to the provisions of the Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance because the property is greater than 40,000 square feet and is subject to a previously approved Type 2 tree conservation plan (TCP2). A TCP2 has been submitted for review and has been assigned the -02-revision number to TCP2-031-09 that was approved as a stand-alone plan. The TCP2 associated with this DSP covers the entire Parcel A, a larger area than the previously approved TCP. While the DSP and TCP cover the entire site, the development proposed with this application is limited to the southeastern portion of this

site. The original Type 2 Tree Conservation Plan (TCP2-031-09) and the -01 revision (TCP2-031-09-01) covered the northeastern corner of the site for a government project for the Beltsville-Laurel Senior Center. The previous woodland conservation requirements included 3.09 acres of woodland cleared for the Senior Center, at a replacement rate of 1:1; 2.92 acres of this requirement was met in an off-site woodland conservation bank located at the Paint Branch Stream Valley Park. The remaining 0.16 acre requirement was retained on-site as part of 5.46 acres of total woodland conservation provided on-site.

The subject application contains no existing woodlands on the net tract; however, it is a phase within an overall TCP2 that contains approximately 6.67 acres of total woodlands. The TCP worksheet has been broken down into three phases. Phase 1 was approved under TCP2-031-09-01, Phase 2 covers the development area of this DSP application, and Phase 3 will cover any future development on the remainder of the site.

According to the worksheet submitted, the woodland conservation threshold for the overall 48.02-acre site is 20 percent of the net tract area or 9.60 acres, which is consistent with the previously approved TCP2. The current application does not contain any woodlands or propose any additional clearing; however, as a phase in an overall project containing woodlands, this phase is required to meet its portion of the overall woodland conservation requirement. The woodland conservation worksheet on the plan, as submitted, shows an overall cumulative woodland conservation requirement of 8.76 acres for the site; however, staff calculates this requirement to be 7.72 acres. This requirement shall be finalized, prior to certification of the plan and is currently proposed to be met through a combination of off-site and on-site woodland preservation and afforestation/reforestation. The worksheet on the plan shows an off-site requirement of 0.26 acre to meet requirements of the current phase.

There are additional technical revisions that need to be addressed on the TCP2 plan, prior to certification.

11. **Prince George's County Tree Canopy Coverage Ordinance:** Section 25-128, Tree Canopy Coverage Requirements, requires properties in the R-R Zone to provide a minimum tree canopy coverage (TCC) of 15 percent. The 48.02-acre subject site is required to provide 7.2-acres in TCC. Through the subject DSP, the applicant has shown that 8.75 acres of TCC will be provided, satisfying this requirement.
12. **Referral Comments:** The subject application was referred to the concerned agencies and divisions. The referral comments are summarized, as follows, and are incorporated herein by reference:
  - a. **Community Planning**—In a memorandum dated April 10, 2020 (McCray to Bossi), the Community Planning Division noted that pursuant to Part 3, Division 9, Subdivision 3, of the Zoning Ordinance, master plan conformance is not required for this application.
  - b. **Trails**—In a memorandum dated April 9, 2020 (Smith to Bossi), the Trails planner noted that the DSP includes sidewalks along the frontage of Contee Road and a portion of Van Dusen Road and throughout the site, within the extent of Phase 1 of construction, which fulfills the intent of the 2009 *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation*, Policies 1 and 2. Staff recommends an additional sidewalk and

crosswalk along the driveway entrance at Van Dusen Road. Future sidewalks elsewhere on the site will be constructed during later phases. In addition, staff recommends continental-style crosswalks crossing the subject site's driveway entrance at each intersection of Contee Road, and a crosswalk at each parking lot entrance along the driveways opposite Ironbridge Lane, to create a direct and continuous pedestrian path throughout the site.

There are planned bicycle lanes along the subject site's frontage of Contee Road and Van Dusen Road. On-street bicycle lanes are considered beyond the scope of a DSP because they are located within the street and not within the boundaries of the subject site. In addition, the plans do not provide for bicycle parking. Designated space for bicycle parking that is convenient to building entrances is an important component of a bicycle-friendly roadway network. Staff recommends inverted U-shaped bicycle racks be installed at a location convenient to the entrances of each building.

- c. **Transportation Planning**—In a memorandum dated April 15, 2020, (Masog to Bossi), the Transportation Planning Section noted the site is on an existing parcel platted pursuant to PPS 4-75128. A trip cap of 207 AM and 298 PM peak-hour vehicle trips was developed with this DSP, as the PPS did not establish a trip cap at the time of the approval. Frontage and direct vehicular access is provided, in accordance with Section 27-362(a)(2)(B), and on-site circulation proposed is acceptable. From the standpoint of transportation, it is determined that this plan is acceptable and meets the finding required for a DSP as described in the Zoning Ordinance.
- d. **Permits**—In a memorandum dated March 4, 2020 (Bartlett to Bossi), the Permits Section identified multiple technical corrections to plans that have since been corrected.
- e. **Environmental Planning**—In a memorandum dated April 15, 2020 (Juba to Bossi), the Environmental Planning Section indicated that the site has an approved Intermediate Natural Resources Inventory Plan (NRI-187-2018-01), which correctly shows the existing conditions of the property.

### **Soils**

The predominant soils found to occur, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, include Beltsville-Urban land complex (0–15 percent slopes), Christiana-Downer complex (15–25 percent slopes), Sassafras-Croom-Urban land complex (5–15 percent slopes), Sassafras and Croom soils (15–25 percent slopes), Udorthents, reclaimed gravel pits (0–25 percent slopes), Udorthents-Urban land complex (0–15 percent slopes), and Urban land-Udorthents complex (0–5 percent slopes). Although soils containing Marlboro clay have not been identified on this site, unsafe soils containing Christiana complexes have been identified on-site. Staff noted that the footprint of the helicopter pad, the southern edge of the 2-story ambulatory care facility, part of a micro-bioretenion facility, along with the site entrance from Van Dusen Road, are all proposed to be constructed immediately adjacent to proposed steep slopes (in excess of 20 percent) associated with an embankment located on-site, parallel to Van Dusen Road.

According to the Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), when existing or proposed steep slopes exceed 20 percent on unsafe soils, government agencies should insist on submitting a full Geotechnical Report that includes a global stability analysis with the proposed (mitigated) 1.5 safety factor line determined and shown on the report plan and on any supporting plans, submitted for County review and approval.

A global/slope stability geotechnical report was submitted on April 6, 2020 and referred to DPIE. The TCP2 submitted now shows an existing 1.5 safety factor line.

Comments from DPIE regarding the slope stability analysis were received via email on April 9, 2020. They indicated that although the geotechnical report submitted was not acceptable due to incorrect sampling; regardless of the sample results, there should be no 1.5 safety factor line associated with this project's proposed conditions because the final grade of the project will be relatively flat. Therefore, there are no stability concerns for the proposed conditions of this project. However, DPIE is still requesting a revised report to be submitted for review, prior to certification of the DSP and TCP2. The revised report will be referred to DPIE for review and comment.

#### **Stormwater Management**

An approved SWM Concept Plan (53967-2018-01) was submitted with the subject application that is consistent with the TCP2 and DSP. A combination of 11 micro-bioretenment areas and porous pavers are proposed to serve as on-site detention and quality control for stormwater associated with this DSP.

- f. **Subdivision**—In consultation with Subdivision and Zoning, staff provided that PPS 4-75128 is applicable to the property for which records are unavailable. The applicant proposes to build a new facility and then demolish the old hospital at a time that allows for the orderly transfer of medical patients to the new facility. The proposed new development must remain within the capacity established by the PPS and final plat for Laurel Hospital, which is 389,397 square feet. Any new development shall not generate more than the equivocal trips to the existing hospital, and any residential development shall require a new PPS approval.
- g. **Prince George's County Fire Department**—At the time of the writing of this technical staff report, the Fire Department did not offer comments on the subject application.
- h. **Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)**—In a memorandum dated April 22, 2020 (Giles to Bossi), DPIE noted that the DSP is consistent with approved SWM Concept Plan 53967-2018-01, subject to several revisions required at the time of filing of final site permits. DPIE further noted that Contee Road is county maintained, and their Traffic Engineering Section noted that a traffic study should be provided showing the impact on county roads and intersections, including the signalized intersection at Contee and Van Dusen Roads.

- i. **Prince George's County Police Department**—At the time of the writing of this technical staff report, the Police Department did not offer comments on the subject application.
  - j. **Prince George's County Health Department**—In a memorandum dated February 21, 2020 (Adepoju to Bossi), standard comments pertaining to the management of noise and dust during construction were provided. In addition, the Health Department noted that access to adequate health care facilities should have positive health effects for the constituents and is essential in the promotion of health equity within the county.
  - k. **Maryland State Highway Association (SHA)**—At the time of the writing of this technical staff report, SHA did not offer comments on the subject application.
  - l. **City of Laurel**—In a memorandum dated March 10, 2020 (Pulley to Bossi), the City of Laurel noted they have no issues with the application, as it would have minimal impact on the City's operations. The memorandum also expressed concern with an expected traffic increase along Van Dusen and Contee Roads during construction and requested the applicant to provide the City with a construction schedule and notice regarding the commencement of on-site work.
  - m. **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)**—At the time of the writing of this technical staff report, WSSC did not offer comments on the subject application.
13. As required by Section 27-285(b) of the Zoning Ordinance, the DSP, if revised as conditioned, represents a reasonable alternative for satisfying the site design guidelines of Subtitle 27, Part 3, Division 9, of the Prince George's County Code, without requiring unreasonable cost and without detracting substantially from the utility of the proposed development for its intended use.
14. Section 27-285(b)(4) of the Zoning Ordinance provides the following required finding for approval of a DSP:
- (4) The plan shall demonstrate the preservation and/or restoration of the regulated environmental features in a natural state to the fullest extent possible in accordance with the requirement of Subtitle 24-130 (b)(5).**

While there are mapped regulated environmental features located on the overall site, they have not been confirmed through a full NRI. The intermediate NRI submitted with this DSP confirms that there are no regulated environmental features within this phase of development. Because no regulated environmental features will be impacted with the proposed development, the regulated environmental features can be found to have been preserved and/or restored in a natural state to the fullest extent possible, in accordance with Subtitle 24-130 (b)(5).

## RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the foregoing evaluation and analysis, the Urban Design staff recommends that the Planning Board adopt the findings of this report and:

- A. APPROVE Detailed Site Plan DSP-19049 and Type 2 Tree Conservation Plan TCP2-031-09-02, for Laurel Hospital Property, subject to the following conditions:
  1. Prior to certification, the detailed site plan (DSP) shall be revised, or additional information shall be provided, as follows:
    - a. Correct Note 4 of the DSP cover sheet to indicate property is zoned Rural Residential.
    - b. Correct DSP Sheet 7, Sign Calculations table to remove the institutional sign design standards and to provide the area and height figures for each sign proposed. Further correct the Sign Calculations table to show the correct approved departure.
    - c. Provide a construction schedule for development of the freestanding medical facility and medical office building, as well as subsequent decommissioning and demolition of the existing hospital building.
    - d. Revise landscape schedules for Section 4.3-2, Parking Lot Interior Requirements of the 2010 *Prince George's County Landscape Manual* to demonstrate conformance to the requirements for each separate parking lot.
    - e. Revise the architectural elevations for the freestanding medical facility and medical office buildings to show signage placement for all building-mounted signage.
    - f. Provide two inverted U-shaped bicycle racks at a location convenient to the entrances of each proposed building.
    - g. Provide a minimum 5-foot-wide sidewalk along the driveway entrance at Van Dusen Road, connecting to the sidewalk leading to the freestanding medical facility. A crosswalk crossing the proposed entrance to the parking lot shall also be provided to create a continuous pedestrian connection between Van Dusen Road and the freestanding medical facility.
    - h. Provide continental-style crosswalks crossing the subject site entrances at each entrance from Contee Road.
    - i. Provide continental-style crosswalks crossing each parking lot entrance along the driveway opposite Ironbridge Lane, to create a direct and continuous pedestrian path throughout the site.
  2. Prior to certification of the detailed site plan (DSP), the Type 2 tree conservation plan (TCP2) shall be revised, as follows:

- a. Relabel the Overall Property Map and TCP2 plan to demarcate all three phases associated with this TCP2 and to correctly indicate that the phase associated with this DSP is Phase 2, consistent with the TCP worksheet. Show the phasing boundary lines on the TCP2 plan and legend.
  - b. Revise the symbol used to represent the limits of disturbance on the TCP2 to be consistent with the standard symbol used in the legend.
  - c. Update the stand-alone government worksheet for the Beltsville-Laurel Senior Center, so the worksheet is consistent with the approved and implemented worksheet per TCP2-031-09-01.
  - d. Revise calculations on the phased TCP2 worksheet using the current standard phased TCP worksheet template.
  - e. Identify all regulated and potential regulated environmental features as reflected on the approved Natural Resources Inventory.
  - f. Add the additional standard TCP2 notes entitled "Removal of Hazardous Trees or Limbs by Developers or Builders."
  - g. Identify the location of any building restriction lines on the TCP2 plan and legend.
  - h. Identify the location of all proposed water and sewer lines and all existing water and sewer lines to remain, along with their associated easements or rights-of-way on the TCP2 plan for this phase of development.
  - i. Add a statement regarding the timing for installation of all proposed tree protection devices, since many of the proposed tree protection devices are not associated with the scope of this phase of development.
  - j. Have the property owner or owner's representative sign and date the Property Owners Awareness Certificate on each sheet of the TCP2, as required.
  - k. Provide the following note on the plan:  
  

"No woodland conservation easement is required for phase 2 of this TCP (associated with DSP-19049 Laurel Hospital). A woodland conservation easement shall be provided for all future phases of development on this site."
3. Prior to certification of the detailed site plan (DSP), the applicant shall submit a revised global stability analysis containing sampling within the area of steep slopes on top of Christiana complexes. The report shall demonstrate a mitigated 1.5 safety factor line outside of the proposed building footprint and helicopter pad. The building location and grading associated with the findings of the global stability analysis shall be reflected on the DSP and Type 2 tree conservation plan. Should the final global stability report determine that no factor of safety line is required, the



following note shall be added to the plan: "The global stability report prepared by (enter name of company), and dated (enter date), has determined that based on the layout shown on this plan, the over consolidated clays will be mitigated such that no factor of safety line is required, as verified by the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement."

- B. APPROVE Departure from Design Standards DDS-667 for Laurel Hospital Property, to allow a standard, nonparallel, parking space size of 9 feet in width by 18 feet in length.
- C. APPROVE Departure from Sign Design Standards DSDS-707 for Laurel Hospital Property, to allow for a total of 4 freestanding signs and 13 building-mounted signs, with dimensions as shown on the detailed site plan.