

Access Road Needs Report for Implementation of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Actions at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

This Access Road Needs Report is developed to identify potential projects for the Defense Access Road (DAR) Program. The following projects are identified as necessary to address future access road congestion on the transportation network surrounding the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda, MD. These projects are presented in priority order according to needs identified by NNMC in coordination with Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and local planning agencies.

- A bank of elevators on the east side of Rockville Pike (MD 355) providing direct pedestrian access to Medical Center Metrorail Station. This improvement will address a series of issues including a potential doubling of users from NNMC, safety concerns for pedestrians crossing Rockville Pike, and the backup of exiting traffic from the facility.
- Improvements to the North Wood Road/Rockville Pike intersection to include a signal analysis, an additional left turning lane, and additional storage in the existing turning lane. These improvements will minimize the backup of traffic into the travel through lanes of Rockville Pike. In addition, the improvements will significantly improve through-traffic flow and will improve safety at the gate intersection.

The Traffic Study from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Bethesda Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is included as Appendix A to this report for reference.

Introduction

The consolidation of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and NNMC, Bethesda to form the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) will create a premier military health care command. WRNMMC will serve as the premier Department of Defense (DoD) medical center with a full range of intensive and complex specialty and subspecialty medical services, including specialized facilities for the most seriously injured service members. This facility will serve as the U.S. military's worldwide tertiary referral center for casualty and beneficiary care. The accessibility of WRNMMC will be essential to its continued service as the military's premier medical center. The proposed projects to improve the surrounding transportation network will ensure the WRNMMC is accessible at all times to the military community and are therefore important components of national security.

NNMC Bethesda is located within the Washington, DC beltway in a highly developed area of Bethesda, Maryland. NNMC is surrounded by the National Institute of Health