

Policy 5. In light of the continuing growth of congestion in the Forest Drive corridor, preserve and enhance the array of solutions currently at the City's disposal.

The 1998 Comprehensive Plan and other studies recommended a parallel service road running on the south side of Forest Drive (MD 665) – the Forest Drive Relief/Service Route. To that end, as land has been annexed into the city, a future road right of way has been reserved. The proposed route, however, has some important environmental concerns and potential capacity limitations that may reduce its desirability and usefulness. The City must keep a broad set of options available for dealing with this congestion in the future. If problems grow as forecasted, these options will become increasingly important in engineering an overall solution. For now, Anne Arundel County is widening Forest Drive from Aris T. Allen (MD 665) to Hilltop Lane, adding a lane in each direction. These are first steps in a phased improvement to the corridor.

To adequately address congestion in the Forest Drive corridor it will be necessary to update the prior studies in order to recommend a comprehensive set of improvements which will document and weigh the potential impacts of a parallel service road and provide a set of improvements to access and circulation within the Forest Drive corridor and the Forest Drive Opportunity Area (see Ch. 3 - *Land Use & Economic Development*). Based on the new studies, it may be determined that a parallel service road is inappropriate. The goals of the improvements in the Forest Drive Corridor are to:

- ▶ reduce peak-period congestion,
- ▶ provide some measure of redundancy in the arrangement of streets by expanding connectivity in the existing road system and between neighboring grids, thus enabling short trips to be made without accessing Forest Drive (MD 665),
- ▶ advance the City's commitment to alternative forms of transportation and reduced dependence on the automobile. In determining the future use of the Forest Drive parallel service route, priority should be given to alternative forms of transportation – transit, bicycles, pedestrians.

Furthermore, the City should:

- ▶ Aggressively lobby the State and the County to begin and complete the study of the 665/Forest Drive/Chinquapin intersection within the next year; and
- ▶ Request that the County consider the use of traffic circles in lieu of traffic signals on Forest Drive.

Figure 4.7 shows the location of the study area.