1.7.4 Historic Resources

The former Naval Ordnance Laboratory (NOL) White Oak campus was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 for its exceptional significance as a first generation Cold War-era defense weapons research facility.

The historic buildings and structures of the NOL were documented for the Historic American Engineering Record in 2003. Under the terms of the 2002 and 2003 Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the majority of the historic resources in the 100, 300, and 600 areas were removed. Buildings 1, 100, the historic flagpole environmental setting, and the historic buffer (golf course) were retained and protected.

GSA has identified the contributing buildings and features within Area 100 affected by the Master Plan alternatives, and determined that no buildings will be directly impacted. Contributing historic resources remain within the 200 and 400 areas, but the Master Plan alternatives do not extend into those areas.
1.8 Circulation

1.8.1 Vehicular Circulation

White Oak is relatively well-connected to the regional freeway network, including I-95, I-495, and US 29 via Cherry Hill Road, New Hampshire Avenue, and Powder Mill Road. The campus has three access points: two access points on New Hampshire Avenue are provided via Michelson Road, which serves as the main entrance for visitors and deliveries, and Mahan Road, which provides access to employee parking areas and the main building entrance. A third access point is provided on Cherry Hill Road via FDA Boulevard. All three access points are signalized.

Traffic is distributed throughout the site via a loop roadway network which provides access to the various surface parking lots and parking garages around the campus. The loop roads are primarily two-lane roadways, with the exception of Southwest Loop Road which is a four-lane roadway between Mahan Road and the Southeast Parking Garage. All internal intersections are unsignalized and intersections between primary campus roadways are all-way stop-controlled. Refer to Figure 1-18 for a depiction of current vehicular circulation in the study area.

1.8.2 Transit

Several bus routes serve the FDA Headquarters with stops along New Hampshire Avenue or internally within the campus. Currently Montgomery County is planning several BRT lines, with potential service along the US 29 corridor by 2018. Possible alignments place BRT service along Lockwood Drive, adjacent to the FRC.

In addition, FDA operates six shuttle routes that serve various regional locations, including several Metro stations. These shuttles are intended to fill gaps in the existing public transit network.
1.8.3 Parking

Parking has been identified as one of the key issues on the FDA Headquarters. Two parking structures have been constructed; however, a parking structure that was to be located in the southeast side of the campus has not been built. The FDA has implemented attendant-assisted parking in order to provide parking capacity for approximately 6,800 vehicles. The attendant-assisted parking is intended to be a stop-gap measure until additional parking can be provided because it is costly and not considered sustainable.

1.8.4 Pedestrian Facilities

Four- to five-foot wide sidewalks are provided along most roadways, connecting the FRC to nearby residential and retail areas. An eight-foot wide shared-use pathway is provided along northbound New Hampshire Avenue. A sidewalk and shared-use path are provided along FDA Boulevard. However, they terminate at the security gate and no pedestrian facilities are provided along Dahlgren Road to connect the FDA Headquarters.

1.8.5 Bicycle Facilities

Bicycle facilities are relatively limited. A narrow, five-foot wide bicycle lane is provided along northbound New Hampshire Avenue along the FDA site frontage. Please refer to Figure 1-19 for a depiction of the bicycle network.

Within the headquarters campus, pedestrian sidewalks and walkways are provided between parking areas and buildings, as well as along Northwest Loop Road and Southwest Loop Road. Sheltered bicycle parking is provided within parking garages and adjacent to building entrances. However, bicycle lanes are not provided on the internal roadway network.

Figure 1-19: Parking, Pedestrian, & Bicycle Network