

Wetland Identification & Delineation Report for **Section 200: I-95, North of MD 43 to North of MD 22**



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Prepared for:



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Engineering A Brighter Future®

Wetland Identification and Delineation Report

Section 200: I-95, North of MD 43 to North of MD 22

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Maryland Transportation Authority (Authority) is conducting project planning studies for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (JFK), Interstate-95 (I-95), in Baltimore and Harford Counties. The study limits for this project, known as Section 200, extend along both sides of I-95 from north of MD 43 in Baltimore County to north of MD 22 in Harford County (**Figure 1**). The Section 200 project planning study is one of four independent projects identified in the *I-95 Master Plan*. The limits of this investigation for wetlands and “waters of the United States” (WUS) are further defined as New Forge Road to Maxa Road.

2.0 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The identification and delineation of WUS, including wetlands, is required by federal and state law prior to the initiation of construction activities that may adversely affect these regulated resources. The agency with permitting authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In making permit decisions, the USACE must follow guidelines issued by the EPA under Section 404(b) (1) of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) regulates the discharge of fill material in all waters of the United States below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), including rivers, intermittent and perennial streams, certain ephemeral channels, ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Other applicable legislation includes Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403) which regulates activities in navigable waters and in areas hydrologically adjacent to navigable waters below the ordinary high water elevation. Wetlands are a specific classification of WUS and are considered jurisdictional under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act when they meet the definition as those areas satisfying the technical criteria contained in the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1* (Environmental Laboratory 1987).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The on-site, "routine" level wetland identification and delineation methodology, contained in the 1987 USACE Delineation Manual, was used to assess and identify WUS and wetlands within the project study area.

3.1 Preliminary Data Review

Prior to conducting field investigations, preliminary office research was conducted to identify previously mapped environmental features, such as topographical configurations, streams, rivers, wetlands, hydric soils, and floodplains which occur within the study area. The research included the review of:

- County ADC maps: Sheets 30 & 22 of the Baltimore County ADC map and Sheets 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, & 28 of the Harford County ADC map. **(Figure 1)**
- U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographic maps: Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood, Perryman and White Marsh quadrangles. **(Figure 2)**
- National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps: Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood, Perryman and White Marsh quadrangles. **(Figure 3)**
- The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). **(Figure 3)**
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soils Surveys and county hydric soils lists; The *Soil Survey of Baltimore County, Maryland* (SCS, 1976) and The *Soil Survey of Harford County, Maryland* (SCS, 1975). **(Figure 4)**
- Aerial photographs

The study area lies within two physiographic provinces, the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Piedmont Plateau. Topography within the study area ranges from 50 feet mean sea level (Little Gunpowder Falls), to approximately 245 feet mean sea level (just south of the MD 22 @ I-95 Interchange). Gunpowder Falls, the study area's largest stream system, flows southeast through Baltimore County where it unites with Little Gunpowder

Falls to form the Gunpowder River. The study area is within the Gunpowder River and the Bush River watersheds. The study area crosses two sub-watersheds of the Gunpowder River watershed: Little Gunpowder Falls and the Lower Gunpowder Falls, and four sub-watersheds of the Bush River watershed: Bush River, Lower Winters Run, Bynum Run and Swan Creek.

There are 26 soil series and an additional 5 land types (alluvial land, cut and fill land, loamy and clayey land, sand gravel pits and stony land) identified within the study area. However, actual soil types throughout the study area may differ from the *Soil Survey* as the study area has been extensively disturbed. Much of the original soils in the area (primarily within the vicinity of the Interchanges of MD 152/I-95, MD 24/I-95, I-95/MD 543, and MD 22/I-95) have been graded, filled, paved or removed since publication of the Soil Survey in 1975. The soils that occur in the vicinity of the study area have been mapped in the *Soil Survey of Baltimore County* and the *Soil Survey of Harford County, Maryland*. (**Figure 4, Table 1**) lists these soil mapping units and their hydric status, and **Table 2** provides a detailed description of the soil series located within the study area.

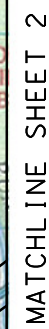
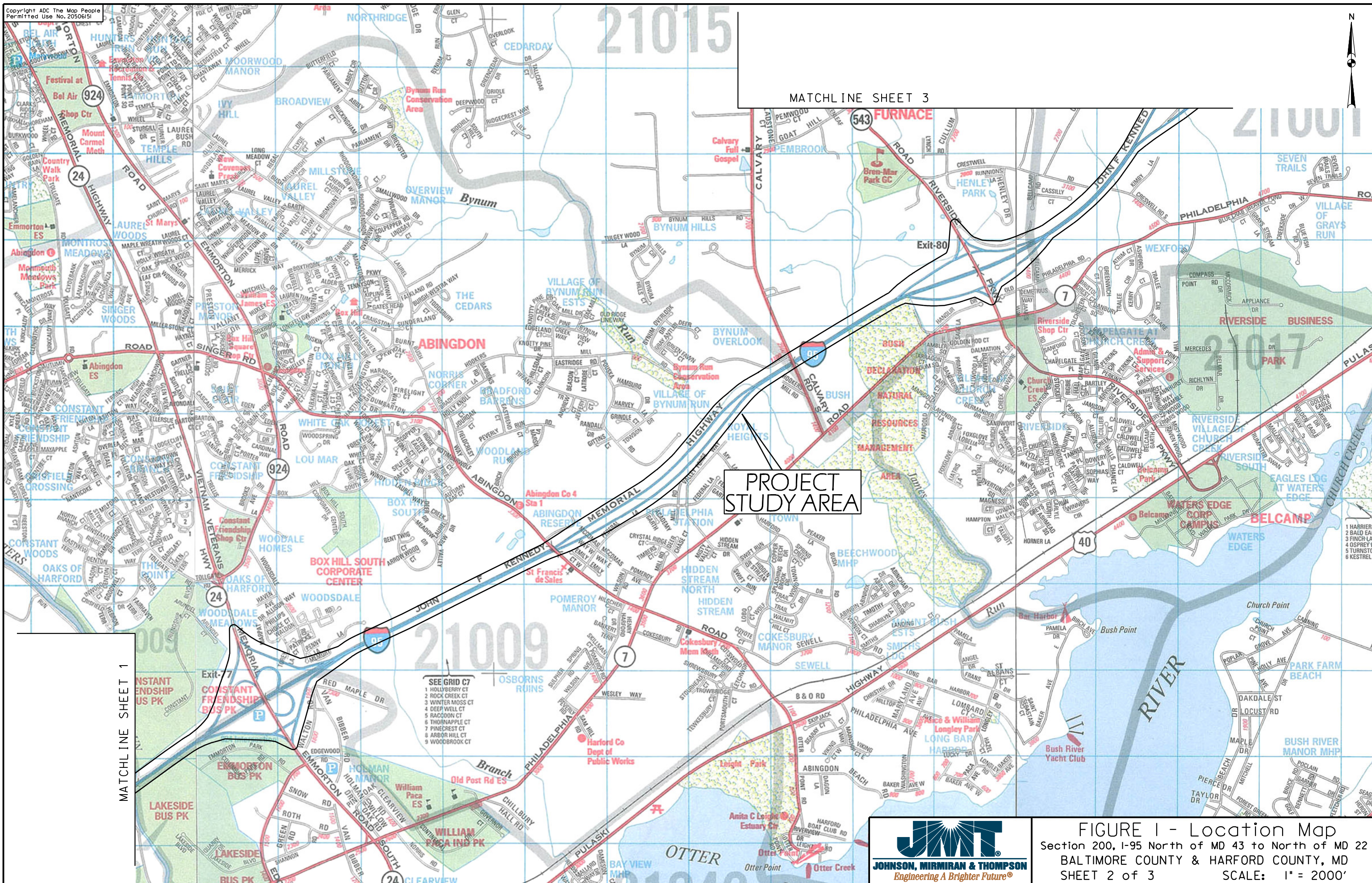
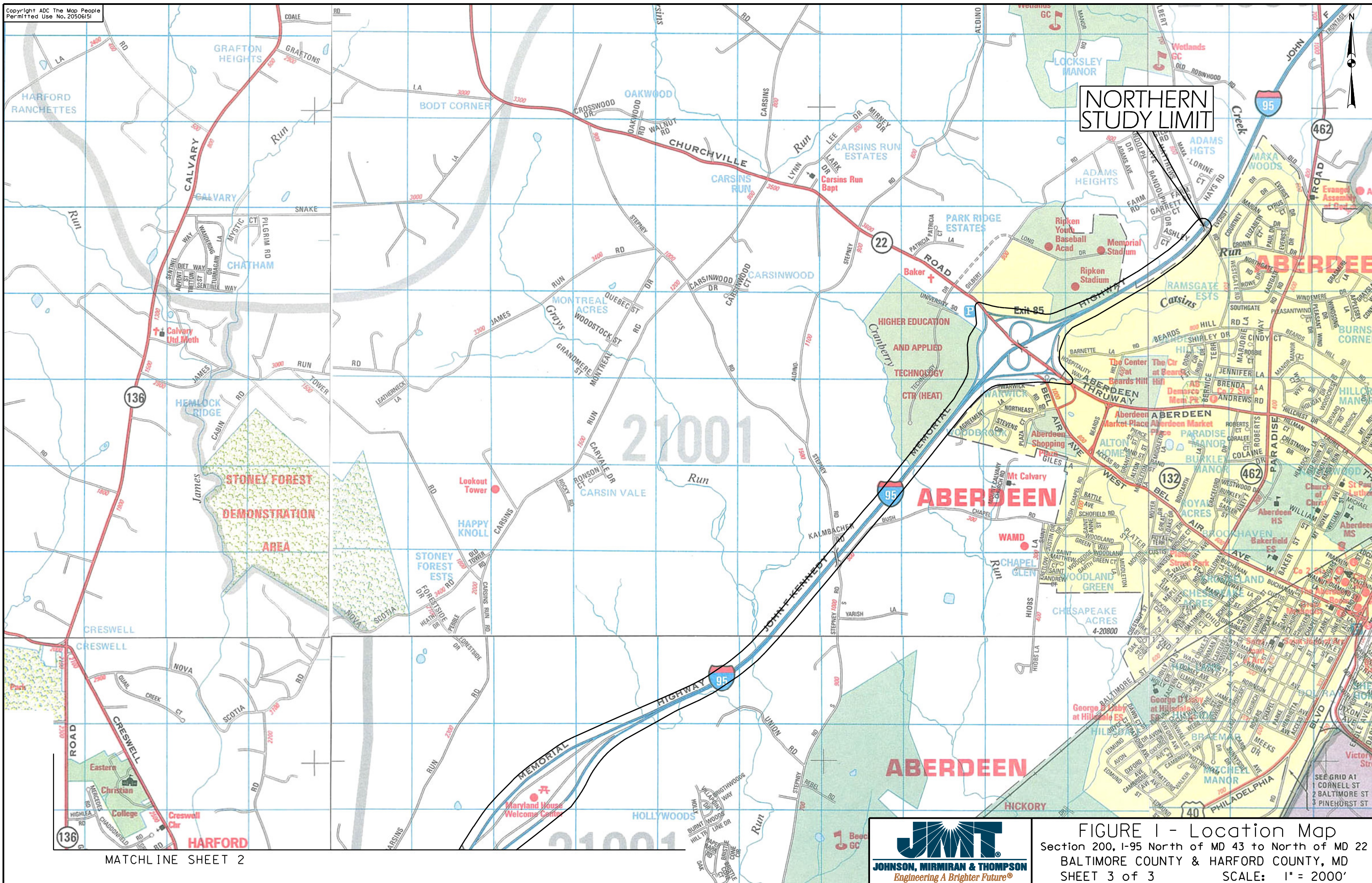
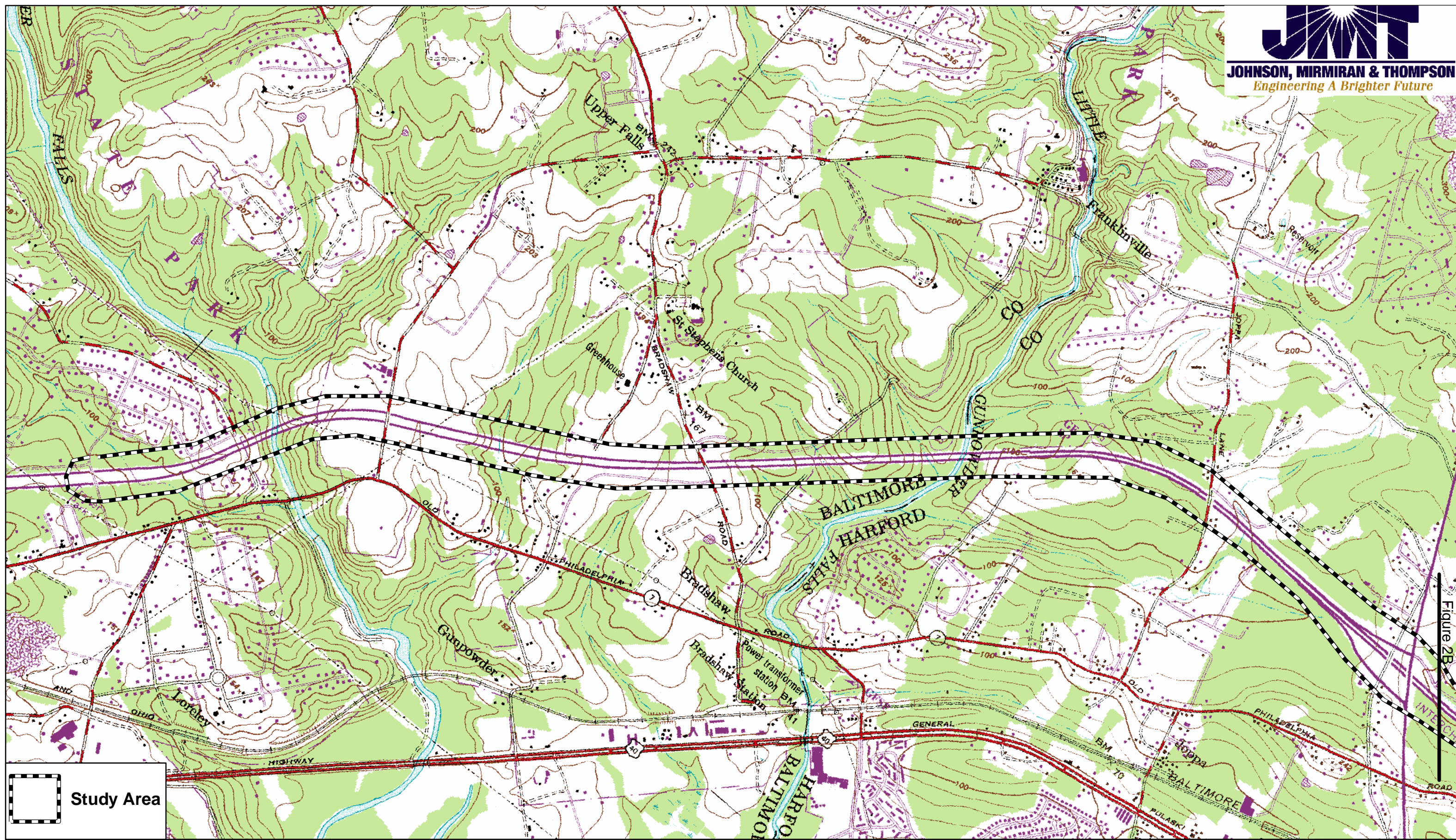


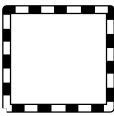
FIGURE 1 - Location Map
Section 200, I-95 North of MD 43 to North of MD 22
BALTIMORE COUNTY & HARFORD COUNTY, MD
SHEET 1 of 3 SCALE: 1" = 2000'






NORTHERN
STUDY LIMIT



 Study Area

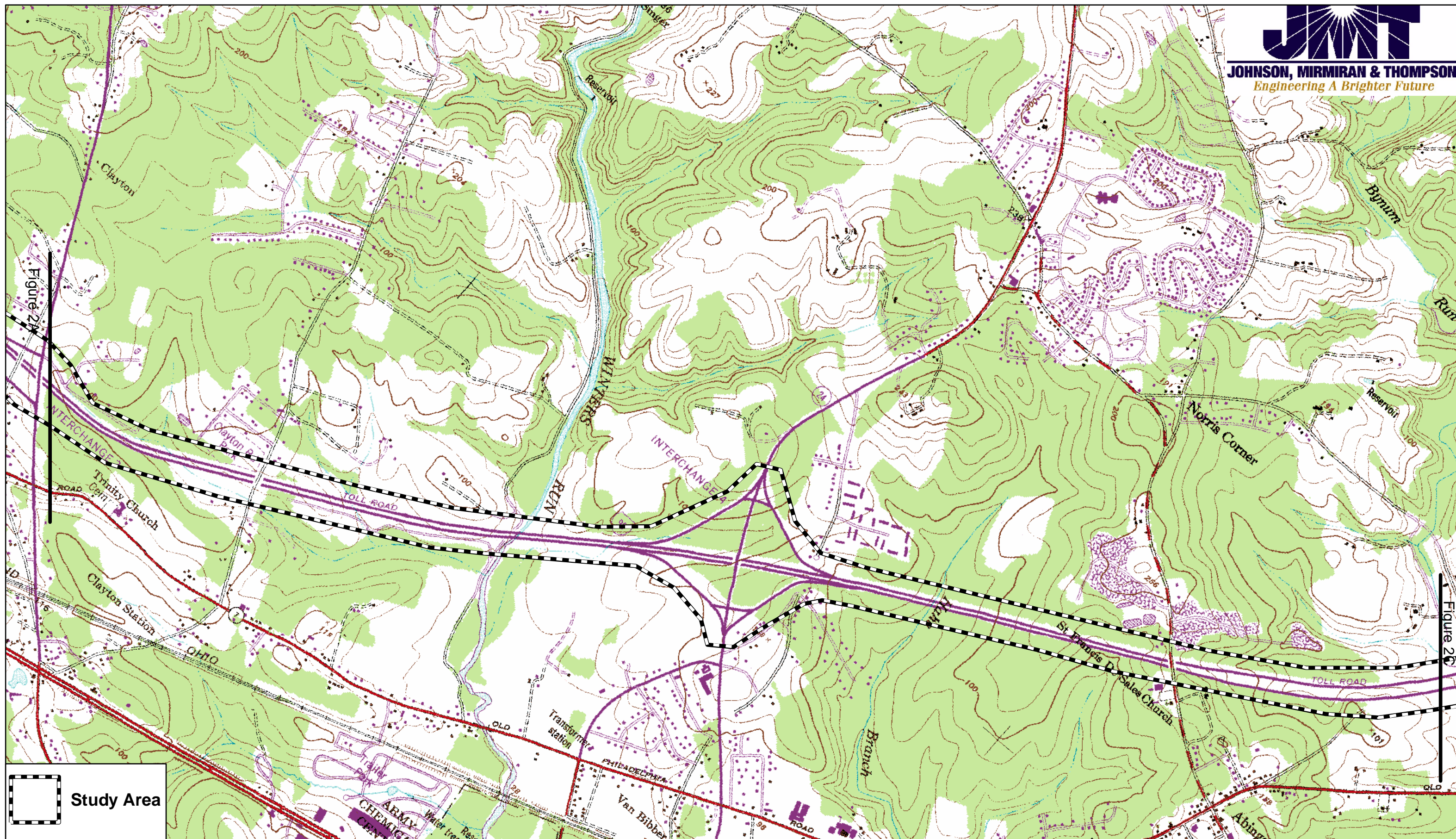
USGS Quad Map
White Marsh Quadrangle
Figure 2A


1,500 750 0 1,500 Feet






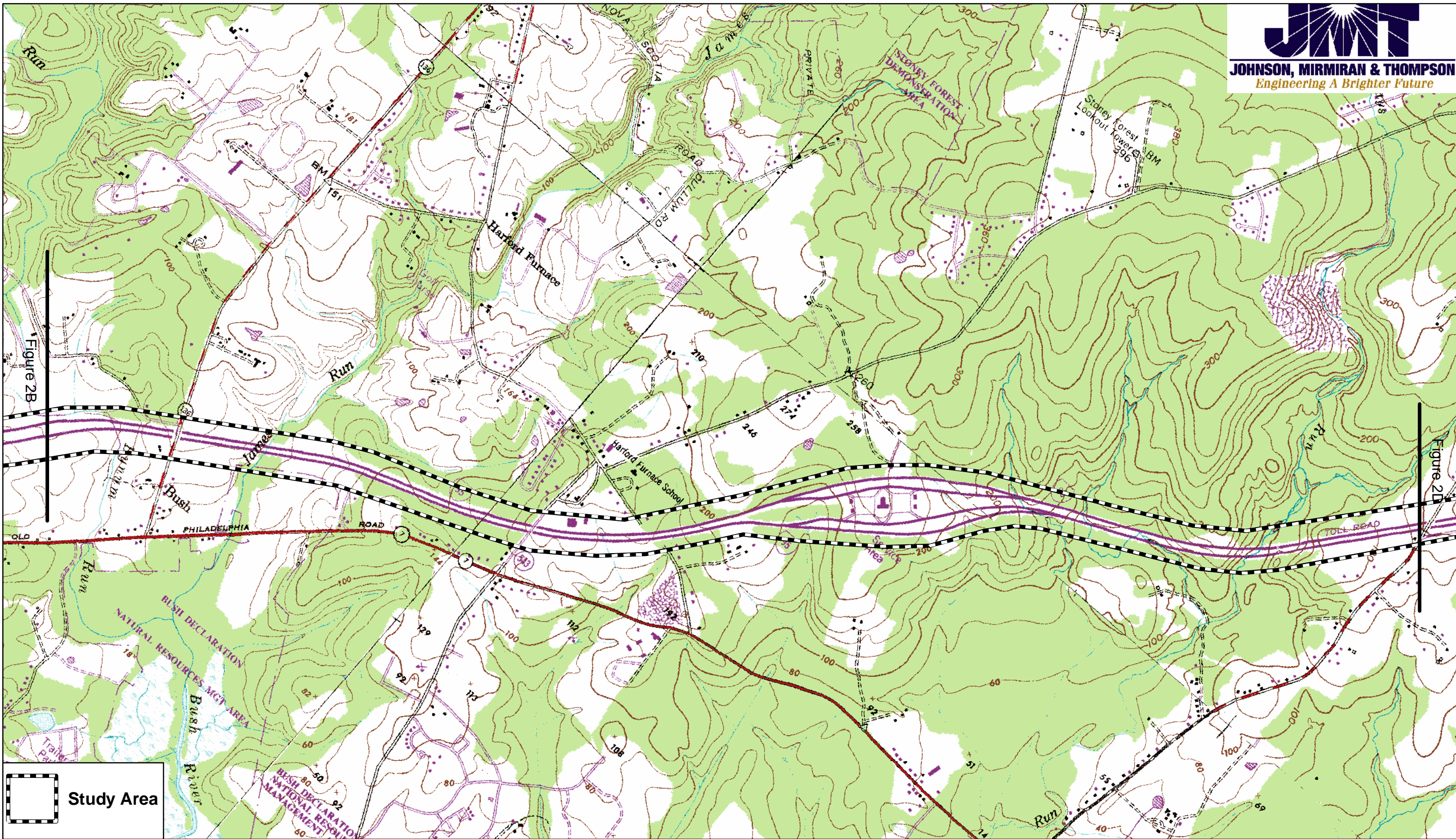
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 Study Area

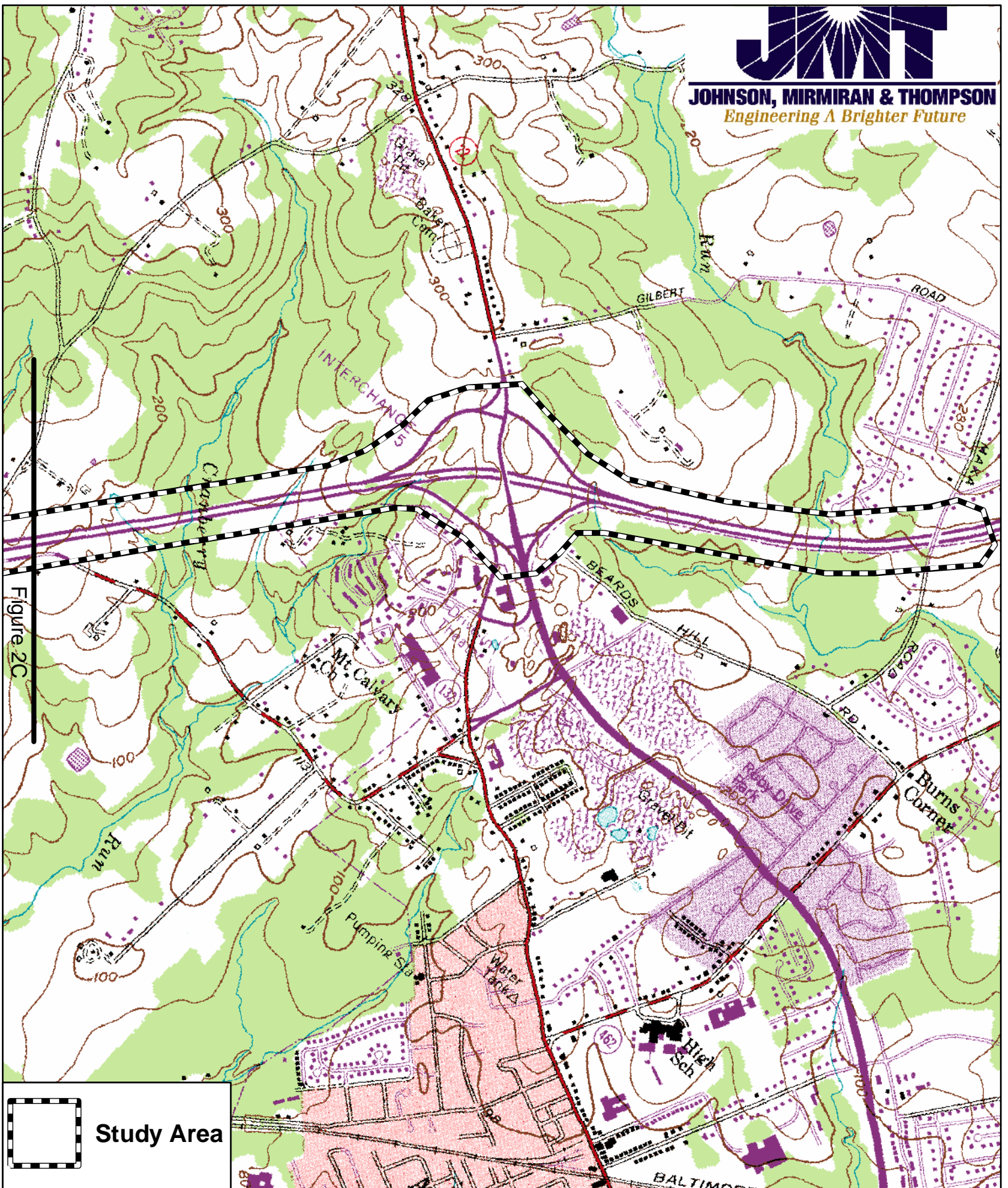
USGS Quad Map
Edgewood Quadrangle
Figure 2B

1,500 750 0 1,500 Feet






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USGS Quad Map
Aberdeen Quadrangle
Figure 2D





1,500 750 0 1,500 Feet



NWI and Floodplains
Figure 3A

Scale
1" = 500'

Legend

-  Study Area
-  NWI
-  Streams
-  100-Year Floodplain

