

## Gateways and Corridors

The visual experience of Annapolis is to a great extent defined by the major corridors on which people travel into or through the City. Corresponding to the freeways, major, and minor arterials designated on the Long-Term Roadway Plan (see [Chapter 5.0, Transportation](#)), these corridors vary greatly in character. As the "ceremonial route" to the historic/institutional core from US Route 50/301, Roscoe Rowe Boulevard is well landscaped, marked with entry signage, and characterized by generous building setbacks and controlled access. By contrast, the dominant visual image of Central/Outer West Street, the other major arterial leading to the core, is one of highway commercial strip development. Inner West Street (from Spa Road/Taylor Avenue to Church Circle) is also predominantly commercial but more pedestrian-oriented than Outer West Street, with buildings set close to the sidewalk and street rather than being separated from them by parking areas.

Gateways (i.e., entrances to Annapolis located on major corridors) are important to establishing a recognizable visual identity for the City. Reflecting the dual nature of Annapolis, two types of gateways have been identified:

- **City Gateways:** major roadways entering Annapolis from Anne Arundel County. These include Roscoe Rowe Boulevard at Weems Creek, West Street at the City boundary, Aris T. Allen Boulevard at Forest Drive, and Bay Ridge Road at the City boundary. In addition, the Route 450 bridge over the Severn River functions as a gateway to Annapolis, although its terminus on Naval Academy property is not located within City limits.
- **City Core Gateways:** entrances to the historic/institutional core from the rest of the City. These include the Roscoe Rowe Boulevard bridge over College Creek, the Compromise Street bridge, and Inner West Street between Calvert Street and Church Circle. The traffic circle and associated urban design improvements programmed for the West Street/Taylor Avenue intersection could be a future gateway to the City Core, redefined as including a revitalized Inner West Street.

***Issues:** With the exception of Roscoe Rowe Boulevard, the major roadways leading into the City are not marked with distinctive signage, landscaping, or other visual cues to announce arrival into the City. The visual image of Outer West Street and Aris T. Allen Boulevard/Forest Drive, in particular, is not commensurate with their status as City Corridors and Gateways.*