

## Arnold, Jacqueline

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:51 AM  
**To:** Zhang, Hai-Yan  
**Cc:** Knapp, Michael; Todd Greenstone; Fuss, Barry; David Weitzer (barbaraweitzer@gmail.com); doug@laytonsvillevillandscaping.com; pvfgrain@aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement  
**Attachments:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement

Hello Everyone,

I am staff to the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC and the Zion Road Bridge replacement will be discussed at our next meeting on Tuesday November 21, 2017 at 7:00pm. The AAC will review the attached letter from the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee and provide comments and recommendations for the items listed below.

I have pulled sections out of the RRAC letter and pasted them below in italic font with some comments in **Bold** for consideration.

The RRAC letter states the following:

*This bridge is an important connection for our area farmers who are currently using circuitous detours because of the new weight limits on this bridge.*

*Farmers who regularly use the bridge for agricultural purposes move large farm equipment and trucks on this section of road, some weighing 80,000 pounds. **There are other farmers that use the Zion Road bridge that need to provide input.** These farmers concur that the bridge is wide enough but must be reconstructed to accommodate heavy loads. **The farmers referenced here are the three farmer members of the RRAC.***

*A wider bridge would increase traffic speeds and the likelihood of conflicts between farm equipment and commuters on the road. **There are conflicts between farm equipment and commuters today as they share this one lane bridge.** Given the location of the bridge in the Agricultural Reserve where agriculture is the preferred land use, we do not consider that to be acceptable. **A new single lane Zion Road bridge may result in future Safety and Liability issues for the County Government.***

*We request an opportunity to consult with you on the design of this important and sensitive project well before the 30 percent design stage, so that we have an opportunity to address issues of context and compatibility before any design decisions are finalized.*

*As noted above, we recommend that the concrete arch design and the narrow width of the bridge be maintained. **The Agricultural Advisory Committee will also provide a recommendation on the width of the new replacement bridge and discuss the width of the Howard Chapel Road Bridges as noted below.***

*We would like to hear your thoughts on whether lengthening the bridge might reduce the times the river overflows the road. **The Agricultural Advisory Committee will discuss the lengthening of the replacement bridge.***

*Tinting the concrete to reduce the visual impact of the new material, and using timber guardrails are preferred.*

*Within the Rachel Carson Conservation Park or within the project limits (whichever is greater), the timber guardrails should be continued where guardrails are needed on this road.*

*More broadly, one of the designated Significant Features of this road is the "forest canopy over northeastern section of road," (Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan, p. 188).*

*By County Code, Significant Features must be retained.*

*As this section of road falls within parkland, we would like to work with you and staff from the Parks Department to assure that the forest canopy remains intact. **The Agricultural Advisory Committee will discuss how tree canopies are***

**responsible for damaged farm equipment as the overhanging tree limbs destroy windshields, flashing lights, mirrors, GPS sending/receiving units, etc.**

Please note that the County Code Chapter 49 Article 8 Rustic Roads Program Section 49-79 specifically states the following:

c. 49-79. Maintenance and improvements.

(a) *County roads*. Each rustic road and exceptional rustic road must be maintained and improved in a manner that preserves the road's significant features which the Council identified under subsection [49-78\(d\)](#), **but this requirement does not preclude improvements to promote safety or movement of farm equipment**. The County Executive must establish guidelines by regulation under method (2) for maintenance and improvement of rustic roads and exceptional rustic roads.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks J

Jeremy V. Criss  
Office of Agricultural Services, Director  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855  
301-590-2830 (Office)  
301-943-9766 (Cell)  
301-590-2839 (Fax)  
[jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices>  
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Montgomery County Ag Reserve  
93,000 acres

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**From:** Zhang, Hai-Yan  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2017 11:22 AM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy <Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Knapp, Michael <Michael.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Todd Greenstone <toddsfarm1@gmail.com>; Fuss, Barry <Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement

Good morning Jeremy,

The clear roadway width for Bridge M-0123 Howard Chapel Road over Hights Branch is 20 ft.  
The clear roadway width for Bridge M-0124 Howard Chapel Road over Patuxent River is 26 ft.

Thanks,

Hai-Yan

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2017 9:41 AM

**To:** Fuss, Barry <[Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Zhang, Hai-Yan <[Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** Knapp, Michael <[Michael.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Michael.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Todd Greenstone <[toddsfarm1@gmail.com](mailto:toddsfarm1@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Zion road bridge replacement

Barry and Hai-Yan,

Thank you for the message below and the attached letter from the Rustic Roads Advisory regarding the Zion Road bridge.

I would like to know the width of the two bridges on Howard Chapel Road (Bridge Numbers MO 123 and 124.)

I believe both of these bridges are two lanes wide.

It simply does not make sense to say a two lane bridge will be un safe when I experience un safe conditions everyday as I cross the Zion Road bridge on my way to and from work.

Please let me know the width of the two bridges on Howard Chapel Road.

Thanks J

Jeremy V. Criss  
Office of Agricultural Services, Director  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855  
301-590-2830 (Office)  
301-943-9766 (Cell)  
301-590-2839 (Fax)  
[jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices>  
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**From:** Fuss, Barry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy <[Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** Zhang, Hai-Yan <[Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement

Jeremy,

For your information, I have attached the rustic road recommendation proposal for a replacement bridge on Zion Road.

Also, as you requested, the existing one lane Bridge on White Ground Road near the intersection with Schaeffer Road has a bridge roadway width of 16 feet.

Thanks,  
Barry

Barry Fuss

Chief, Bridge Design  
Department of Transportation  
Transportation Engineering Division  
100 Edison Park Dr, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878  
240-777-7261

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** Zhang, Hai-Yan <[Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** Fuss, Barry <[Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Todd Greenstone <[toddsfarm1@gmail.com](mailto:toddsfarm1@gmail.com)>; Knapp, Michael <[Michael.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Michael.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement

Hello Hai-Tan,  
I am following up on the string of messages below.  
I am copying Todd Greenstone who serves on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee as a farmer member and the Agricultural Advisory Committee representative.  
I am also copying Mike Knapp who serves as staff to the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.  
The Office of Agriculture-OAG recommends the Zion Road Bridge should be replaced with a two lane bridge consistent with the width of Zion Road.  
A two lane replacement bridge would make the new structure eligible for federal cost share funds reducing the replacement costs for Montgomery County tax payers.  
If the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee will not recommend a two lane bridge, than the OAG would like the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee recommendation in writing.  
The OAG would like to better understand what the AASHTO guidelines are for a bridge that is at least 16 feet wide.  
Please let me know the width of the single lane bridge at the intersection White Ground Road and Schaeffer Road that was replaced about 12 years ago.  
Thanks J

Jeremy V. Criss  
Office of Agricultural Services, Director  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855  
301-590-2830 (Office)  
301-943-9766 (Cell)  
301-590-2839 (Fax)  
[jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices>  
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**From:** Zhang, Hai-Yan  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 2:51 PM

**To:** Criss, Jeremy <[Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>

**Cc:** Fuss, Barry <[Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement

Thank you Jeremy.

The Rustic Road Advisory committee wants to keep Zion Road Bridge as an one lane bridge. The existing clear roadway width is less than 12 ft. So it will not be a two lane bridge. According to the AASHTO guideline, the minimum bridge clear width should be 16 ft. wide. Which width in your option would be better to accommodate farm equipment? Thanks so much,

Hai-Yan

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy

**Sent:** Friday, November 03, 2017 2:51 PM

**To:** Zhang, Hai-Yan <[Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Hai-yan.Zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov)>

**Cc:** Fuss, Barry <[Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Zion road bridge replacement

Hello Hai-Yan,

I am responding to your message below.

Is there any way the existing single lane bridge could be replaced with a two lane bridge?

A two lane bridge would be much safer than a single lane bridge.

I cross this bridge twice each day as I travel to my office which is located at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood.

On several occasion I have experienced drivers that are not considerate and they race to cross the bridge first.

A two lane bridge would avoid this current environment and simultaneously provide a wider width to accommodate farm equipment.

Please let me know the answer to the question above.

Thanks J

Jeremy V. Criss

Office of Agricultural Services, Director

18410 Muncaster Road

Derwood, Maryland 20855

301-590-2830 (Office)

301-943-9766 (Cell)

301-590-2839 (Fax)

[jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices>

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**From:** Zhang, Hai-Yan

**Sent:** Friday, November 03, 2017 2:43 PM

**To:** Criss, Jeremy <[Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>

**Cc:** Fuss, Barry <[Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Barry.Fuss@montgomerycountymd.gov)>

**Subject:** Zion road bridge replacement

Good afternoon Jeremy,

We are doing some research here to determine the width of a replacement bridge for the one lane bridge on Zion Road, and we need your expertise on farm equipment. In your opinion, what would be the proper roadway width for the bridge to better accommodate farm equipment? Thanks so much for your help.

Hai-Yan

*Ms. Hai-Yan Zhang, P.E.,*

**Capital Project Manager, Design Section**

**Division of Transportation Engineering, MC DOT**

**100 Edison Park Dr., 4th Floor**

**Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878**

**Phone: 240-777-7278**

**e-mail: [hai-yan.zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:hai-yan.zhang@montgomerycountymd.gov)**