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For alternative formats of this newsletter, contact the Division of Transportation Engineering at 240. 777. 7220. TTY users call MD relay.

The Plan Ahead is a project newsletter published by the MCDOT to encourage community participation.

THE PLAN AHEAD

Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation

FOREST GLEN PASSAGEWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is performing the **Forest Glen Passageway (FGP) Feasibility Study** for a proposed grade-separated pedestrian passageway (tunnel or bridge) across Georgia Avenue at Forest Glen Road with a continued pedestrian access to the mezzanine of Forest Glen Metrorail Station.

The Feasibility Study collects background data; develops alternatives and conceptual design; evaluates environmental, traffic, social and utility impacts; investigates constructability; estimates the costs and construction duration; obtains public input; and recommends a Preferred Alternative.

NEWSLETTER PURPOSE

This newsletter is to provide a brief overview of this project and to invite you to attend the public meeting where you can learn more information regarding this project and provide us with your input.

BACKGROUND

The intersection of Georgia Avenue at Forest Glen Road has one of the highest traffic volumes in Maryland for a roadway. It currently operates at **Level of Service (LOS) F** (Oversaturated; Vehicles wait through multiple signal cycles) during the peak periods.

The fact that the Forest Glen Metrorail Station is on the west side of Georgia Avenue, and the Holy Cross Hospital as well as offices and the Montgomery Hills Baptist Church are on the east, makes it necessary for a large number of people to cross Georgia to get to their destinations from the Metrorail Station. The current conflicting timing needs do not allow sufficient time for pedestrians to cross either Georgia Avenue or Forest Glen Road at-grade while simultaneously trying to meet the traffic demands. For the five year period 2005 to 2009 the pedestrian related crash rate was almost four times the statewide average.



On December 2, 2008, the Montgomery County Council approved funding for the design of the new Forest Glen Passageway. The construction has not been funded. The MCDOT is seeking Federal Funds to share the construction costs.

PUBLIC MEETING

Public Meeting
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
7:00-9:00 PM
Sligo Middle School, Cafeteria
1401 Dennis Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902

The objective of the public meeting is to:

1. Introduce the Study Team and establish meaningful lines of communication between the Study Team and the public;
2. Share project information with the public;
3. Learn and address questions and concerns the public may have; and
4. Gather feedback from the public.



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THE NEXT STEPS

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public participation is an indispensable component of the Forest Glen Passageway Feasibility Study. After the public meeting, the public will have two weeks (through **April 24, 2012**) to submit any other comments. MCDOT encourages you to stay involved! The public may forward comments to MCDOT by the following manners:

- By the attached postage-paid Public Comments Form;
- By regular mail to the Project Manager, Greg Hwang at 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; and
- By e-mail to Greg.Hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

After the public comment period, the MCDOT will evaluate public and agency comments. Your comments will be taken into consideration as the study team selects a recommended Preferred Alternative and refine and finalize the concepts.

The Preferred Alternative will then be proposed to the County Council for approval to perform the design of the Forest Glen Passageway.



Planning

Montgomery County Department of Transportation

This newsletter is mailed to Homeowner/Civic Associations representing the area within one mile radius of the project site and property owners directly abutting the project site whose names appear on the County's Geographical Information System (GIS) database. Homeowner/Civic Associations are requested to convey the newsletter and public meeting information to their residents. If you would like to receive future newsletters on the Forest Glen Passageway, please contact the Project Manager, Greg Hwang. MCDOT would be pleased to add your name and address to the project's mailing list.

For more information, please contact

Mr. Greg Hwang - Project Manager

Phone: 240. 777. 7279

Email: Greg.Hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/index.html>