

Testimony for Montgomery County Council, CIP FY23-28 Public Hearing, Feb. 8, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

By Lee R. Keiser, a Past President of the South Bradley Hills Neighborhood Assn., 20814/20817



Bradley Boulevard (MD 191) Improvements
(P501733)

Category	Transportation	Date Last Modified	01/08/22
SubCategory	Pedestrian Facilities/Bikeways	Administering Agency	Transportation
Planning Area	Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Vicinity	Status	Final Design Stage

This CIP proposed budget represents a welcome milestone:
It's the first time that sideway/bikeway **P501733*** would NOT be postponed.
But, this on-track status must be taken with a grain of salt,
Since decades ago, pre-CIP, this state road's safety infrastructure ground to a halt.

How else to explain the MD-191 sidewalk's abrupt end
Just short of our neighborhood that's around the bend?
It was the B-CC Master Plan of 1990 where calls for improvements first came to light.
Three decades later, an un-signalized crosswalk anchors our plight.

Bradley Boulevard's a vital link to: the Capital Crescent Trail, schools,
A greenway to Metro and the library; plus access via Little Falls to the county pool.
Future sidewalks and bikeways will serve residents beyond our two zip codes,
A theme common to users of Montgomery County's state roads.

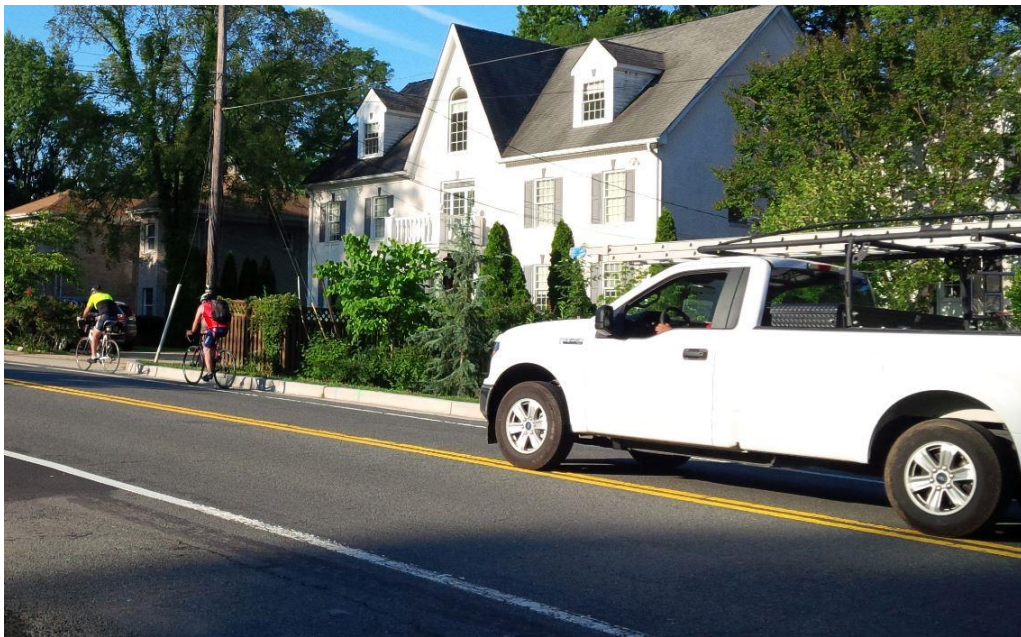
Last June, at MCDOT's first public meeting on this project since 2015,
Over 100 neighbors came to this 2-hour Zoom, eager to be heard and seen.
The pandemic reinforced MD-191's starring role as South Bradley Hills' "Main Street,"
Albeit an increasingly-hazardous road, without sidewalks, cyclists' clearance, and zero drainage capacity.

Neighbors asked for more crosswalks along MD-191 that bisects our community.
Our northern 2-lane border, MD-188, has 7 crosswalks now. Vision-Zero equity?
Further acceleration is needed on P501733, improvements first Master Planned in 1990.
The construction phase is too far away, when safety for MD-191 travelers is risk-laden every day.

Thank you for your consideration.

***FY23 Recommended Capital Budget**, January 2022: "Pedestrian Facilities/Bikeways," **Bradley Boulevard (MD-191) Improvements Project**, P501733: pps. 18-27 through 18-29.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OMB/Resources/Files/omb/pdfs/fy23/ciprec/FY23_Recommended_Capital_Budget.pdf

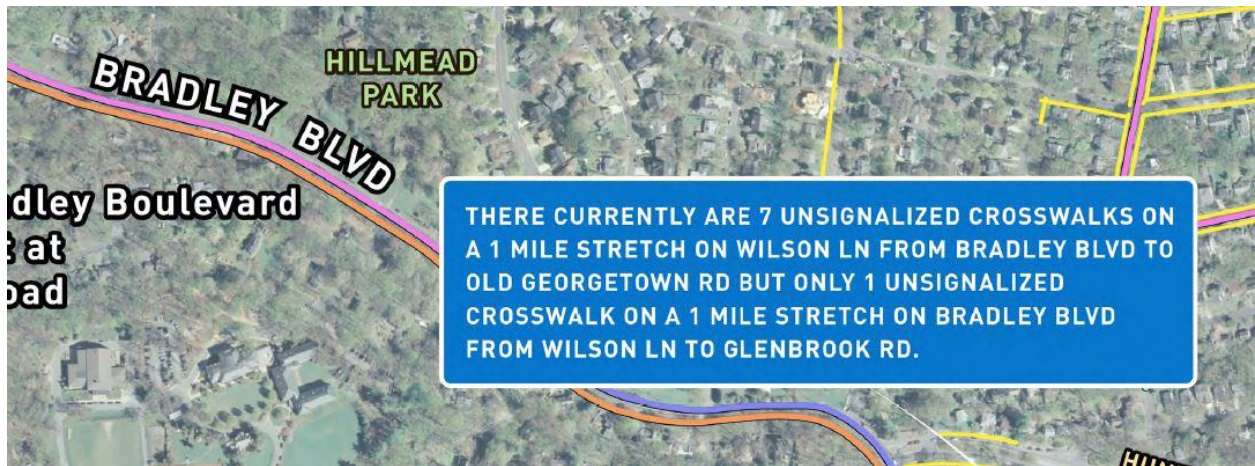
MD-191 Corridor within scope of CIP #P501733, Bethesda, MD – Photos © Lee R. Keiser



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MD-191 Corridor within scope of CIP #P501733, Bethesda, MD – Photos ©Lee R. Keiser



Source: Montgomery Planning, 2015: Bradley Boulevard (MD-191) Improvements Project: Bikeway, Sidewalk, and Crosswalk Connectivity, prepared by Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/Resources/Files/BradleyBldWorkshop/Bradley%20Blvd%20Crosswalk%20Connectivity.pdf>