

**From:** [Jim Smith](#)  
**To:** [county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
**Cc:** CIP Testimony for North High Street Connection  
**Subject:** Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:00:54 PM  
**Date:**

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Dear Councilmembers,

The Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) asks you to include the funding to build the connection between North High Street and Morningwood Drive in this year's CIP. OTCAC has been requesting this connection for over 10 years and the recent design study has indicated the cost is only \$1.3 million. This is a very small amount for the impact it will have on traffic along Georgia Avenue, pedestrian and bike safety, and redevelopment opportunities in that area. Additionally, with potential redevelopment, the tax increment on North High Street properties will pay the county back on this investment over time.

OTCAC has been advocating for the connection of North High Street to Morningwood Drive since the Olney Master Plan was updated in 2005. Our advisory committee, the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA), and the Mid-County Citizens' Advisory Board have endorsed this project in 2015 and for this year's CIP. Since State Highway does not perform traffic studies at North High Street and Georgia Ave intersection (closest studied intersection is Georgia and Morningwood), members of GOCA and OTCAC did their own counts in January 2016. The findings are presented at 5 mins 18 secs into an 8-minute video on their website <https://www.goca.org/transportation-committee/>. The conclusion is 20 cars every 15 minutes in the morning rush and 30-40 cars every 15 minutes in the evening rush could utilize this connection and NOT need to exit North High Street to Georgia Ave in order to then turn onto Morningwood Dr.

This connection is important because it has stopped all redevelopment in this quadrant of our town center. An individual landowner cannot make this required road improvement on their own as it makes a redevelopment project cost prohibitive. The cost to the county is very small compared to other projects. The design study is completed, now it needs to be funded for construction.

Sincerely,



**Jim Smith, Chair**  
Olney Town Center Advisory Committee  
[www.olneytowncenter.org](http://www.olneytowncenter.org)