

February 6, 2024 testimony to the Montgomery County Council on the Recommended CIP
from Tim Goodfellow

Tonight you have heard many people lobby the Council to add a project, encourage the Council to restore funding, or ask for increased resource commitments to some project for the County and its residents.

I am here to support the exclusion or non-appearance of a particular item in the CIP: the Mid-County Highway Extended or M83 highway.

The proposed M83 highway is a 5-mile, 1-Billion dollar project that is environmentally-destructive, community-harming and obsolete. It's a proposal that should never be in the CIP and never have funds allocated for planning, design, or construction.

The only way to ensure the M83 highway proposal never makes it to the CIP stage is to remove it from all Master Plans in Montgomery County.

Alternatives to the M83 highway do exist to address the needs for enhanced mobility and additional transportation infrastructure capacity.

One of these alternatives is in the Recommended CIP ---the County's Bus Rapid Transit System on MD 355 to Clarksburg.

I ask you to approve funding in the Recommended CIP for BRT on MD 355, which is a sound, progressive and climate-aligned approach to transportation in the 21st century.

Tim Goodfellow

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