

SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW **MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MCDOT)**

- **Location:** Snowden Farm Parkway at Newcut Road
- **Crash Date:** May 23, 2025
- **Crash Time:** Approximately 7:05 PM
- **School Name:** Snowden Farm Elementary School, Hallie Wells Middle School, Clarksburg High School
- **School Walkshed Boundary:** Inside
- **Local Case No:** 250022932
- **Review Date:** February 3, 2026

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT AND CRASH DETAIL

On Friday, May 23, 2025, a vehicle was traveling southbound along Newcut Road and passed through the intersection with Snowden Farm Parkway while the signal was green. A bicyclist traveling along westbound Snowden Farm Parkway passed through the intersection with Newcut Road while the signal was red and was struck by the vehicle. The bicyclist suffered a suspected minor injury. The weather was clear, the roadway surface was dry, and the crash occurred in the daylight. Figure 2 illustrates the crash location and the direction of bicyclist and vehicle travel.

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC CONTEXT

- **School Type:** Elementary Middle High
- **School Hours (Arrival / Dismissal):** 9:00 AM – 3:25 PM (Elementary School); 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM (Middle School); 7:45 AM – 2:30 PM (High School)
- **School Enrollment FY 24-25:** 578 (ES), 931 (MS), 2,242 (HS)
- **Crossing Guards Present:** Yes No

INFRASTRUCTURE & CONDITIONS

- **Sidewalk Coverage**
There is continuous, buffered sidewalk coverage along all approaches and legs of the intersection.
- **Crosswalk Visibility**
Continental crosswalks are marked over each leg of the intersection. The pavement markings over the departure lanes of Snowden Farm Parkway are fading (eastbound east leg and westbound west leg).
- **Lighting at Location**
There are LED lights in all quadrants shining into the intersection. The northwest light was on during the daytime. There is also pedestrian lighting along the sidewalk throughout the neighborhood.
- **Speed Limit / School Zone Limit**
The posted speed limit along Snowden Farm Parkway is 30 mph with a supplemental “Fines Double: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM School Days” sign. The posted speed limit along Newcut Road is 25 mph.
- **Intersection Geometry**
At the subject intersection, Snowden Farm Parkway is a five-lane, two-way divided roadway with three approach lanes in each direction including two through lanes and one left-turn

lane, and two departure lanes. There are no shoulders along Snowden Farm Parkway. The lanes are approximately 11-foot wide. Newcut Road is a two-lane, two-way undivided roadway that is approximately 40 feet wide with parking permitted on the northbound approach of the north leg and along both sides of the street on the south leg.

- **Nearby Transit Stop**

There are Montgomery County Ride On bus stops surrounding the subject intersection; to the north of Snowden Farm Parkway on Newcut Road, to the east of Newcut Road along Snowden Farm Parkway, and at the adjacent intersections along Snowden Farm Parkway.

- **Nearby School Facilities**

Snowden Farm Elementary School is in the southeast corner of the subject intersection with pedestrian access to the school available from Newcut Road. Hallie Wells Middle School is approximately ¾ miles to the northeast off Little Seneca Parkway. Clarksburg High School is approximately 1-mile to the west off of MD 355.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

- **Observation Date/Time:** 2:15 PM – 2:30 PM & 3:15 PM – 3:45 PM, Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

- **Pedestrian Activity**

Light pedestrian activity (approximately 5 pedestrians) was observed during the first 15-minute observation period between 2:15-2:30 PM. Constant vulnerable road user (VRU) activity (between 50-100 VRUs) was observed crossing the intersection during the elementary school dismissal period between 3:15-3:45 PM. Pedestrians during the dismissal period were more likely to obey the traffic signals, whereas pedestrians in the off-peak were more likely to cross during the Don't Walk phase during a gap in traffic. A Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) is activated for the Snowden Farm Parkway crossing before the Newcut Road vehicular approach turns green. The pedestrian signal crossing Snowden Farm Parkway is actuated and has a 20-second Flashing Don't Walk countdown. The pedestrian phase crossing Newcut Road is on recall and has a 10-second Flashing Don't Walk countdown.

- **Vehicle Activity:** Moderate.

- **Drop-off / Pick-up Operations**

All on-street parking spaces were taken on Newcut Road to the south of Snowden Farm Parkway to pick up their children from the elementary school, and some vehicles stopped and blocked the through lane once parking spaces were full. Similarly, all on-street parking spaces along Snowden Farm Parkway were used and vehicles would use the rightmost through lane to stop and pick up children, blocking traffic. School children and guardians were consistently traveling through the intersection both walking and driving.

- **Visibility / Obstructions**

Vehicular and pedestrian sight distance is not obstructed at the intersection. Motorists turning right on red from all approaches were observed to pull past the stop line and into the crosswalk to increase their sight lines.

- **Driver Behavior**

Road users were observed generally following traffic control devices and properly yielding right of way. The most remarkable conflicting movements were between the southbound left-turns from Newcut Road and the pedestrians crossing the east leg crosswalk. Because of the constant pedestrian activity on the east leg crosswalk, southbound left-turning drivers had to look ahead at oncoming northbound Newcut Road motorists as well as conflicting

pedestrians within the crosswalk. The Newcut Road is permissive phasing. While motorists were typically observed to yield to pedestrians, there were some instances where the pedestrian had to yield to the turning motorist.

- **Additional Details**

Snowden Farm Parkway is a boulevard providing access to attached and detached residential units and commercial businesses. Newcut Road provides access to attached and detached residential units as well as to Snowden Farm Elementary School to the south. To the north provides access to commercial businesses and attached residential units.

CRASH HISTORY (AT THE LOCATION)

- **Total Crashes (Last 5+ Years):** A total of seven (7) crashes occurred at or near the subject crash location between January 1, 2020 and November 30, 2025.
 - **Pedestrian/Bicycle Involved:** Only the subject crash involved a VRU.
 - **Student-Involved Crashes:** The only known student-involved crash included the subject crash.
 - **Crashes During School Hours:** Of the seven (7) crashes, three (3) crashes occurred within school hours or within one hour of the school bell (6:45 AM to 4:25 PM) and within the school calendar year.
 - **Recurrent Patterns (Time/Type):** There is not a recurrent crash pattern. There were three (3) sideswipe crashes, one (1) angle crash, one (1) reverse crash, one (1) pedestrian crash, and one (1) rear end crash. Three (3) crashes occurred in the dark with lights. One (1) crash occurred along a wet surface.

FINDINGS

There were no obvious infrastructure deficiencies that contributed to this crash. The crash occurred due to failure to exercise due care approaching an uncontrolled crossing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While not related to the crash, the following were identified as recommendations to enhance the safety of the location:

- ☑ **Maintenance:** Refresh faded pavement markings including crosswalks and stop lines.
Install “Turning Vehicle Yield To Pedestrian” signs on the mast arms for all approaches.
Replace “Pedestrian Crossing” signs with “School” signs.

SITE PHOTOS / MAPS

- ☑ Photos Attached
- ☑ Crash Diagram Included
- ☑ School Walk Zone Map Included
- ☐ Heatmap of Past Crashes (if applicable)



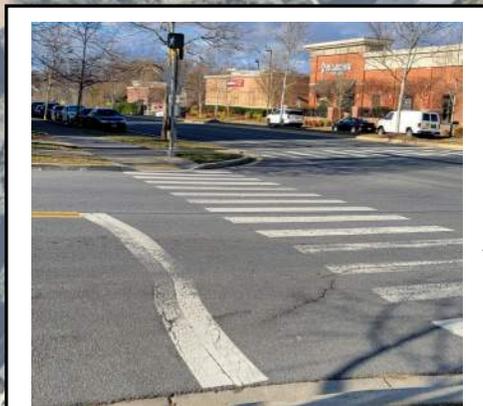
Vehicles block through lane for passenger pick up and drop off



SB left turn from Newcut Rd yields to pedestrians on west leg



Elementary school dismissal



NB stop line uneven and fading

Figure 1 – Snowden Farm Parkway at Newcut Road

 Crash Location

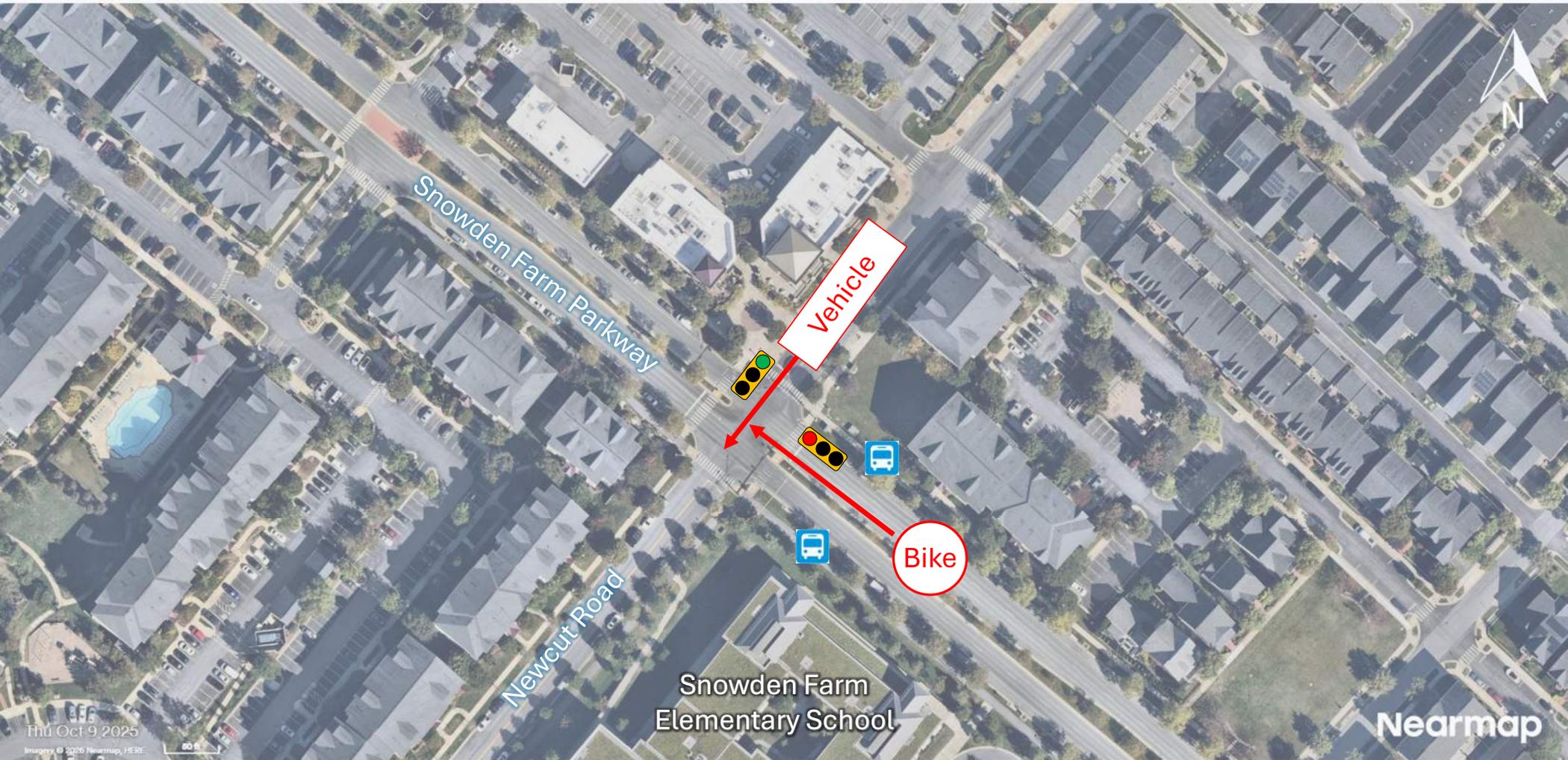


Figure 2 – Crash Diagram



Figure 3 – Crash History (2020-2025)

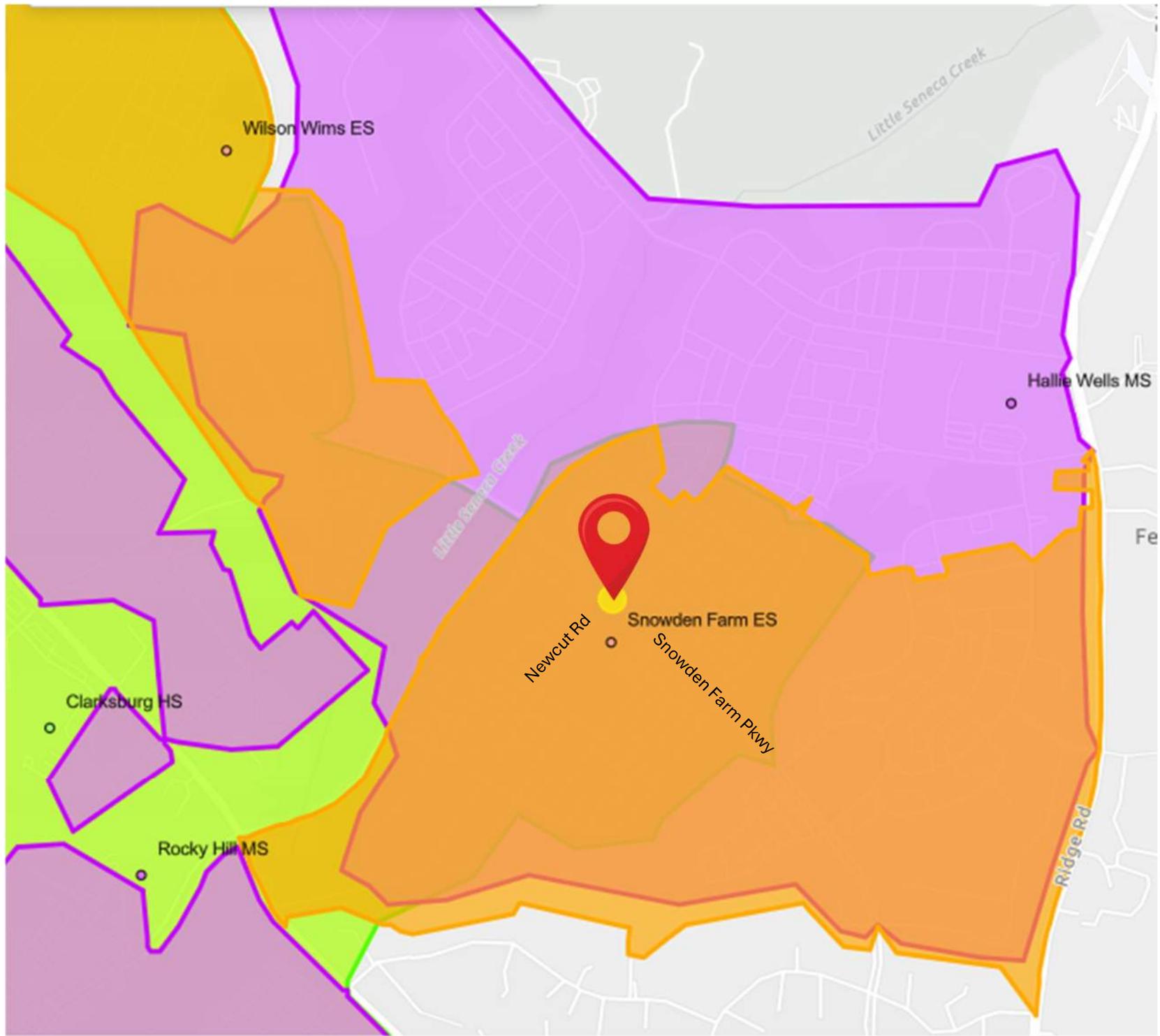


Figure 4 – School Walk Zone Map