

# **WELCOME**

**Montgomery County  
Department of Transportation**

**Decatur Avenue Access Restriction  
Under Consideration Public Hearing  
March 13, 2023**

We will begin shortly. The Public Hearing will be recorded.




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Department of Transportation

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Department of Transportation  
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A photograph of a road intersection. In the background, there is a two-story building with a gabled roof and a sign that says "Montgomery County Department of Transportation". The building is surrounded by lush green trees. In the foreground, there is a road intersection with a crosswalk. On the left side of the road, there is a sign that says "KEEP RIGHT" with an arrow pointing right. On the right side of the road, there is a yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black arrow pointing right. There are also some white barrels and a fence in the middle ground. The sky is blue and there are power lines overhead.

**Montgomery County  
Department of Transportation**

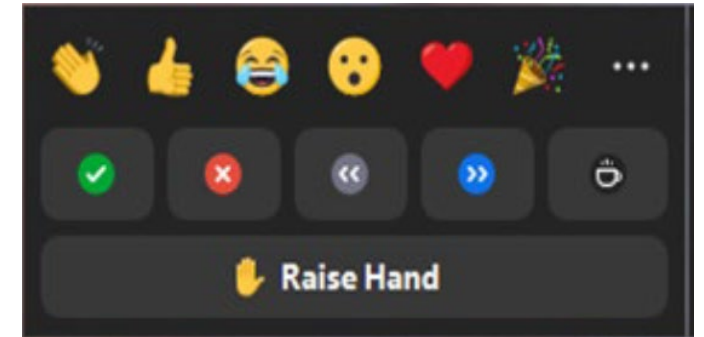
**Decatur Avenue Access Restriction  
Under Consideration Public Hearing  
March 2024**



# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

## Zoom Meeting Controls

- All microphones have been muted and cameras turned off.
- **To reduce the bandwidth of tonight's meeting, please do not turn on your video camera.**
- Following tonight's presentation, you will have the opportunity to provide testimony. There will also be a Question-and-Answer session after the testimony portion if time allows. Please wait until the presentation ends to raise your hand to testify or ask a question. Alternatively, you may type your question into the chat box any time during tonight's hearing.
- To raise your hand following the presentation, please click on the "Reactions" icon at the bottom of your screen, and then click "Raise Hand."
- If you called into tonight's meeting via telephone, press \*9 to raise your hand and \*6 to unmute yourself.



# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

## PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

*Hearing held pursuant to Executive Regulation 17-94AM, Through Traffic Volume Access Restrictions in Residential Areas.*

- Obtain testimony regarding the potential project
- Comments/testimony should be focused entirely on the Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration
- All interested persons are entitled to be heard at this hearing; however, the testimony portion of this hearing is not a forum for dialogue, questions and answers, or cross examination.
- Public Hearing will be posted on the project website: [www.Montgomerycountymd.gov/decatur](http://www.Montgomerycountymd.gov/decatur)



# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

## **PUBLIC HEARING RECORD**

The Public Hearing Record will remain open for 30 days to allow any person an opportunity to have their comments included.

**Written Testimony carries the same weight as Oral Testimony.**

Official Closing Date for Comments and Testimony

**Friday, April 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

Submissions can be made via email:

[trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov)



# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Written Testimony carries the same weight as oral testimony.**

Deadline for Written Testimony:  
**Friday, April 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

You may email submissions to:  
[trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Once the Hearing Record closes, the County Executive will issue a Statement of Decision. The Statement of Decision will be communicated to all who have engaged in this process.

Based on the information received during the hearing process the executive may revise the plan.





The representative of residents along Decatur Avenue west of Wexford Drive, has requested that Access to Decatur Avenue from Wexford Drive be Restricted.

Why is the  
Access  
Restriction  
Under  
Consideration?

**MCDOT**

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot)







# AREA MAP





Before the implementation of the access restriction plan, MCDOT will ask the applicant to petition the residents in the area where the plan will be implemented.

A signature on the petition, simple majority of households (one adult per household) within the area must be received to adopt the plan.

## Implementation Petition





To determine Decatur Avenue met the eligibility criteria set in the regulation MCDOT conducted a number of studies including:

1. Determine Roadway Classification

2. Conduct Traffic volume Count

3. Conduct License tag survey sample

4. Look Impact on roadway network

5. Determine Access restriction to be considered

Eligibility



Access volume restrictions are limited to tertiary, secondary, and primary residential streets.

Decatur Avenue near Wexford Drive is classified as a secondary residential roadway and is a candidate for access restriction.

# No. 1 Roadway Classification





# No. 2 Measured Traffic Volumes

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Decatur Avenue is a 24-foot-wide roadway with on-street parking allowed on both sides. It has one unobstructed travel lane serving both directions. For access restriction, the measured traffic volumes must exceed 100 total two-way vehicles per hour. A traffic volume count was conducted during peak hours on December 5, 2022.

Decatur Avenue Traffic Volume between Wexford Drive and Connecticut Avenue (MD 185)		
	AM	PM
Eastbound	77	142
Westbound	44	72
Total	121	214



No. 3  
Estimated  
Non-Local  
Traffic  
-or-  
Cut-Through  
Traffic

Non-local or cut-through traffic is through traffic diverted from arterial streets onto local residential streets to avoid congestion and/or longer trips, with both an origin and destination external to the neighborhood.



**For Access Restriction, the Non-Local traffic should exceed 50% of total to be considered.**



A license tag survey was conducted on Decatur Avenue between 5 and 6:00 p.m. A total of 140 license plates collected.



**22 license plates or 16% had originated from within the 1-mile boundary. 118 license plates or 84% of vehicles had originated from outside the 1-mile boundary.**





# No. 4. Impact on Roadway Network



Intersection	Level of Service	
	Existing Condition	Diverted Traffic (Evening)
Beach Drive at Wexford Drive	B	C
Beach Drive at Knowles Avenue	C	E
Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) at Knowles Avenue	E	F

**Intersection Level of Service:**

- A – Very Low Delay**
- B – Short Delay**
- C – Significant number of vehicles stopping**
- D – Congestion is Noticeable**
- E – Moderate to Excessive Delay**
- F – Excessive Delay**

# No. 5. Access Restriction Under Consideration



**4:00 to 6:00 PM  
On Decatur Avenue**





# Community Discussion Paper

A community discussion paper was prepared and submitted to the representative of residents along Decatur Avenue west of Wexford Drive as well as posted to the project website.

The representative of residents along Decatur Avenue west of Wexford Drive reviewed the paper and approved the plan.



# Community Assessment

The main purpose of the community assessment is ensuring public disclosure and access to information

**We posted signs on southbound Wexford Drive at Decatur Avenue with information about the access restriction under consideration**

**MCDOT**

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot







## NOTICE

Under Consideration  
4-6 PM Turn Restriction  
Wexford Drive to Decatur Avenue  
For More Info or Provide Input  
[Montgomerycountymd.gov/decatuor](http://Montgomerycountymd.gov/decatuor)  
240-777-2190



# Public Comment Summary

(40 Total Responses)

Favor Access  
Restriction

8 or 20%

No  
Objection

18 or  
45%

Oppose Restriction

14 or 35%

**MCDOT**

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot)





1. Traffic safety and operational improvements at other locations such as Knowles Avenue and Connecticut Avenue (MD 185)

2. Exempt local traffic

3. Speed Humps installation along Decatur Avenue

4. All-way stop control at Beach Drive and Wexford Drive

5. Concerns with diverted traffic along street Denfeld Avenue

Most Objections were received from residents along Decatur Avenue. A few comments were received from residents of the Rock creek Palisades neighborhood.

## Main Topics Raised by Public in Comments

# Notice of Public Hearing Provided:





# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

Exhibits included in the Public Record:

1. Area Map
2. Implementation Petition
3. Eligibility Studies (Roadway Classification, Traffic Volume Count, License Tag Survey and Impact on Roadway Network)
4. Community Discussion Paper
5. Montgomery County government press release circulated Feb. 28, 2024 and March 12, 2024, The Washington Times newspaper and online advertisement published February 14, and 28, 2024; and posted to various social media sites including *NextDoor*, X, Facebook, etc.
6. Comments & Testimony
7. List of Attendees; to be added following this Public Hearing
8. Hearing Transcript; to be added following this Public Hearing

Project related data and files are on the Project Website: [www.Montgomerycountymd.gov/decatur](http://www.Montgomerycountymd.gov/decatur)



# Following this Public Hearing . . .

- ❖ The hearing record will be open for up to 30 days, closing on **Friday, April 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**
- ❖ Once the Hearing Record closes, the County Executive will issue a Statement of Decision
- ❖ The Statement of Decision will be communicated to all who have engaged in this process and submitted comments.





# Is the Access Restriction Permanent if Approved?

If within 90 days of the permanent installation of the plan, a significant, unexpected problem develops as a direct result of the access restriction, or if at any time a documented safety problem develops, the Division of Traffic Engineering & Operations (DTEO) may suspend the plan and re-open the Access Consideration process. All residents who engaged in this process will be notified via mailed correspondence.

## Reassessment

After 3 years the DTEO may reassess, remove or alter the access restriction. If DTEO decides to reassess, new traffic studies will be conducted and the Access Restriction Under Consideration process will start anew.



# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Cameras and microphones have been turned off to reduce the bandwidth of the meeting

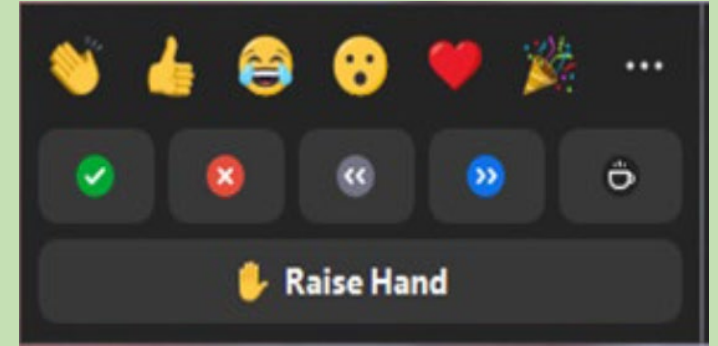
- We will first call on those who signed up to testify. If you did not sign up, but wish to testify, please use the **“raise hand” feature by clicking “Reactions” on the icon bar at the bottom of your screen and then click “raise hand”**. If you dialed in by **telephone, press \*9 to raise your hand and \*6 to unmute yourself** once called on. You will be called on to testify in the order that hands are raised.
- You will be unmuted when it is your turn to speak
- **Once given speaking rights, please unmute yourself and clearly provide your name and address for the record prior to beginning your testimony. Please reserve all questions for the Question-and-Answer session following the testimony portion of this hearing.**
- Written Testimony will be considered with the same weight as oral testimony and can be submitted via email to [trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov) or via the online comment form.





# Question-and-Answer Session

- Cameras and microphones have been turned off to reduce the bandwidth of the meeting
- To ask a Question
  - Raise your hand by clicking “Reactions” icon at the bottom of your screen and then “raise hand,” or by pressing \*9 on your telephone keypad and then \*6 when asked to unmute. You will be called on to ask your question in the order that hands are raised; or
  - Type your question into the chat. If time does not allow for all questions to be answered during this evening’s hearing, all questions in the chat will be answered via email in the days to come;
  - Email your questions to the plan at [trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov)



# Decatur Avenue Access Restriction Under Consideration

## THANKYOU FOR ATTENDING

The Public Hearing Record will remain open for four weeks to allow any person an opportunity to have their written testimony and comments included.

Official Closing Date for Comments & Testimony  
**Friday, April 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

Submission should be made to:

[trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov)

For any traffic safety and operational issues along Maryland State roadways, please contact:

[SHAD3TrafficTeam@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:SHAD3TrafficTeam@mdot.maryland.gov)

For any traffic safety and operational issues along Montgomery County maintained roadways, please contact:

240-777-2190 or [trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov)