

## NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER A TRIBUTARY TO NORTHWEST BRANCH BETWEEN AUTH LANE AND KERSEY ROAD

### Introduction

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation held a public information meeting to inform citizens about a project to construct a **New Pedestrian Bridge over a Tributary to Northwest Branch Anacostia River between Auth Lane and Kersey Road** in Kemp Mill Area of Silver Spring. The meeting was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

### Project Background

A pedestrian bridge connecting the walking paths between Auth Lane and Kersey Road was requested by members of the community in 2020 to enhance the safety of the traveling public.

### Public Feedback

Public input is the key to the success of a public infrastructure project, as it allows the County to understand the concerns of the community. The following questions and/or requests were received during the month-long public comment period and were taken under consideration by MCDOT. Also provided are MCDOT responses.

**Question:** Is it possible to avoid construction during the month December of this year? Construction activities may disturb a previously scheduled family event planned for mid-December to be hosted on property adjacent to the project site.

**Response:** It is the goal of MCDOT to have this project completed before December of 2024. Actual project schedule is contingent on permitting and availability of funds.

**Question:** MCDOT received multiple requests to consider adding "traction treatment" to the deck surface in order to maintain surface friction during inclement weather conditions.

**Response:** MCDOT design consultant will investigate "traction treatment" options to assess feasibility of installation and cost. "Traction treatment" will be incorporated into the project pending availability of funds.

**Question:** MCDOT received a request to consider adding a handrail along unpaved trails leading to / from bridge to improve safety.

**Response:** This request cannot be incorporated into the project for the following reasons:

1. The MCDOT approach to design and permitting is to treat the existing walking paths as unimproved "off-road" trails.
2. Installation of handrails will increase construction costs as it requires disturbance of steep slopes and removal of additional trees.

**Question:** MCDOT received a request to consider implementing improvements to the existing walking path on the Kersey Road side of the pedestrian bridge even if the existing walking path from Auth Lane side of the bridge cannot be improved.

**Response:** This request cannot be incorporated into the project. Any improvements to the walking path on the Kersey Road side of the bridge may provide a false sense of accessibility to the public approaching the pedestrian bridge from Kersey Road.

**Question:** MCDOT received multiple requests to re-populate the area with trees.

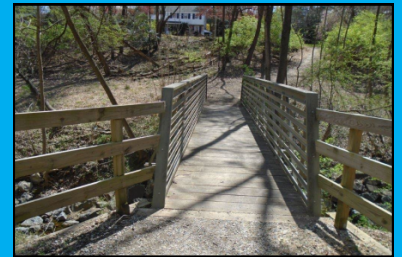
**Response:** Trees will be planted to satisfy mitigation requirements. Tree planting, in excess of mitigation requirements, will be considered pending availability of funds and availability of suitable area where the trees can be planted.



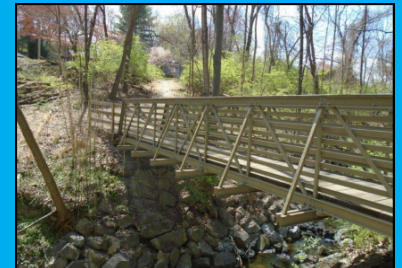
West Approach:  
(looking east from Kersey Road)



East Approach:  
(looking west from Auth Lane)



Section View:  
Typical Prefabricated Truss FRP  
Bridge



Elevation View:  
Typical Prefabricated Truss FRP  
Bridge



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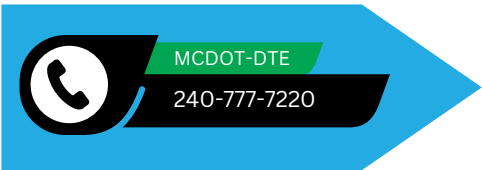
Jose Thommana, P. E.  
 Acting Division Chief

Eric Willis  
 Deputy Division Chief

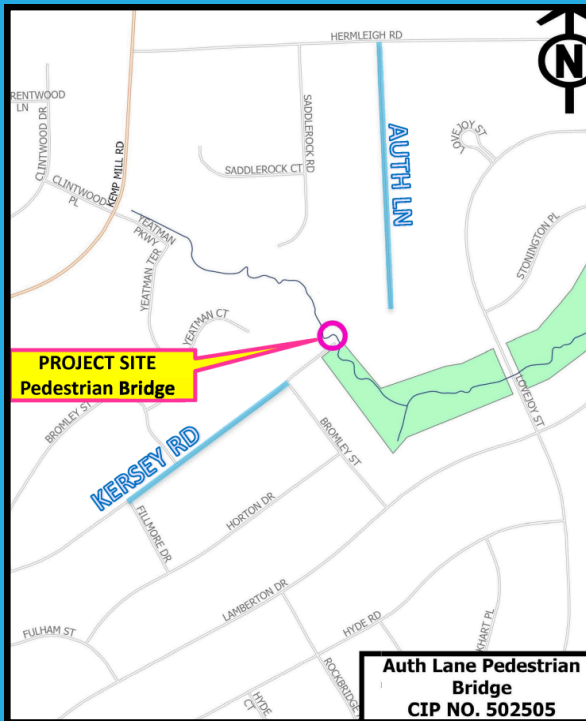
Dan Sheridan  
 Design Section Chief

Dewa Salihi  
 Construction Section Chief

Tiara McCray  
 Property Acquisition Section Chief



- [montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte)
- Department of Transportation Division of Transportation Engineering
- @MCDOTNow



This newsletter is sent to residents who are on the project mailing list and to the owners of the businesses in the vicinity. Please share this information with your neighbors. If they want to receive future newsletters, please contact the MCDOT Transportation Planning and Design Section. We plan to provide periodic updates on this project.

Homeowner/Civic Association or Chamber of Commerce that receives this newsletter is requested to convey the newsletter information to their members.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/AuthLane/index.html>