

Fenton Village Bike and Pedestrian Projects

Project Newsletter Number 11, May 2024.

NOTE: This newsletter is formatted to be optimized for screen readers.

Thank you for your interest in the Fenton Village bike and pedestrian projects! The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (M-C-D-O-T) is continuing planning efforts for the three related bike and pedestrian improvement projects in Fenton Village. We will provide regular updates through newsletters like this one.

Updates At A Glance.

This section provides a quick update of the status of each project.

Fenton Street Cycletrack:

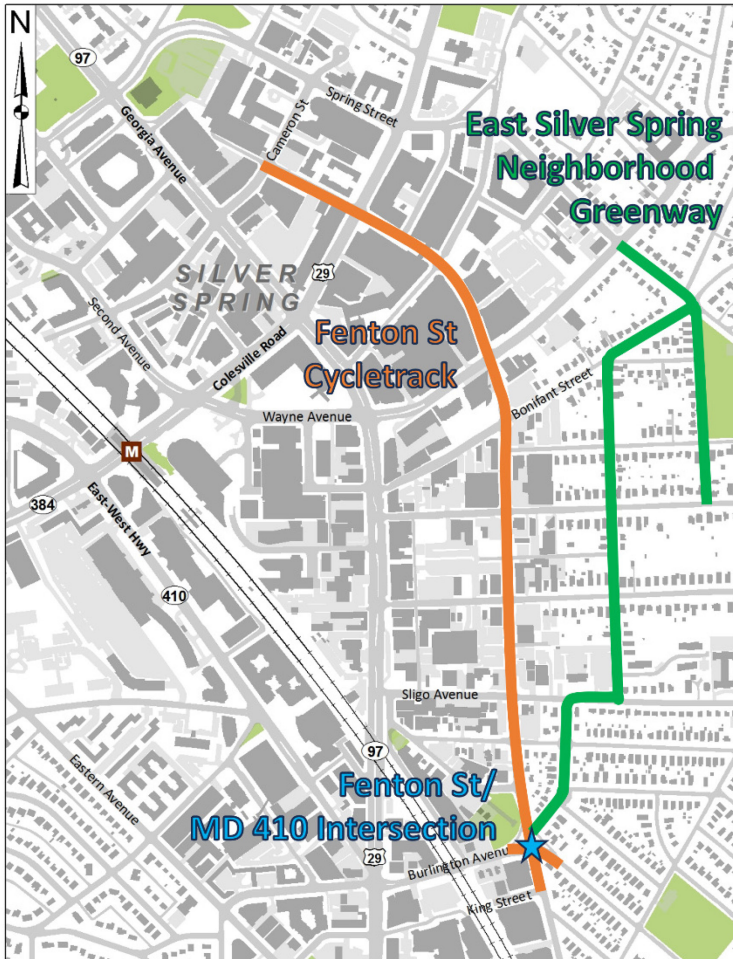
- Phase: Permitting and property acquisition.
- Phase completion: Fall 2024.
- Next phase: Utility relocation.
- Construction expected to start Spring 2025.

Fenton Street/Maryland 410 Intersection:

- Now included with the Fenton Street Cycletrack Project.

East Silver Spring Neighborhood Greenway:

- Phase: 30% design complete.
- Next phase: Final design.
- Construction expected to start Spring/Summer 2025.



(End of updates at a glance section).

Fenton Street Cycletrack Update.

Since the last project update in November 2022, we have been hard at work finalizing the design and working on both permitting and property acquisition. We recently completed the 100% design and are working on some minor tweaks due to utility changes. There have been no substantial changes to the design since the 65% stage. The plans and a video update from that stage are available on the project webpage, under the Project Documents tab.

Most of the work over the past year had focused on finalizing utility relocations. In addition to the power and telecommunication lines you can see on the poles along portions of Fenton Street, there are also a multitude of utilities hidden underground. Each of these needs to be a safe distance from other utilities. We have coordinated extensively with the utility companies and final utility design

and approvals are currently underway. Some utility relocations may start this summer or fall.

We are also currently working to get permit approvals from several agencies, including the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, the Maryland State Highway Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration. We expect to receive all permits required for construction before the end of 2024. Our property acquisition team is also working to acquire all necessary right-of-way or temporary construction easements. We expect this work to be completed by the end of 2024.

We expect to go to construction in early 2025. Construction is likely to take 18 to 24 months to complete. You may see some construction activity in advance of our work starting, as the utilities begin to relocate their facilities.

We will coordinate closely with businesses along the street, and will continue to post updates for residents. Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns.

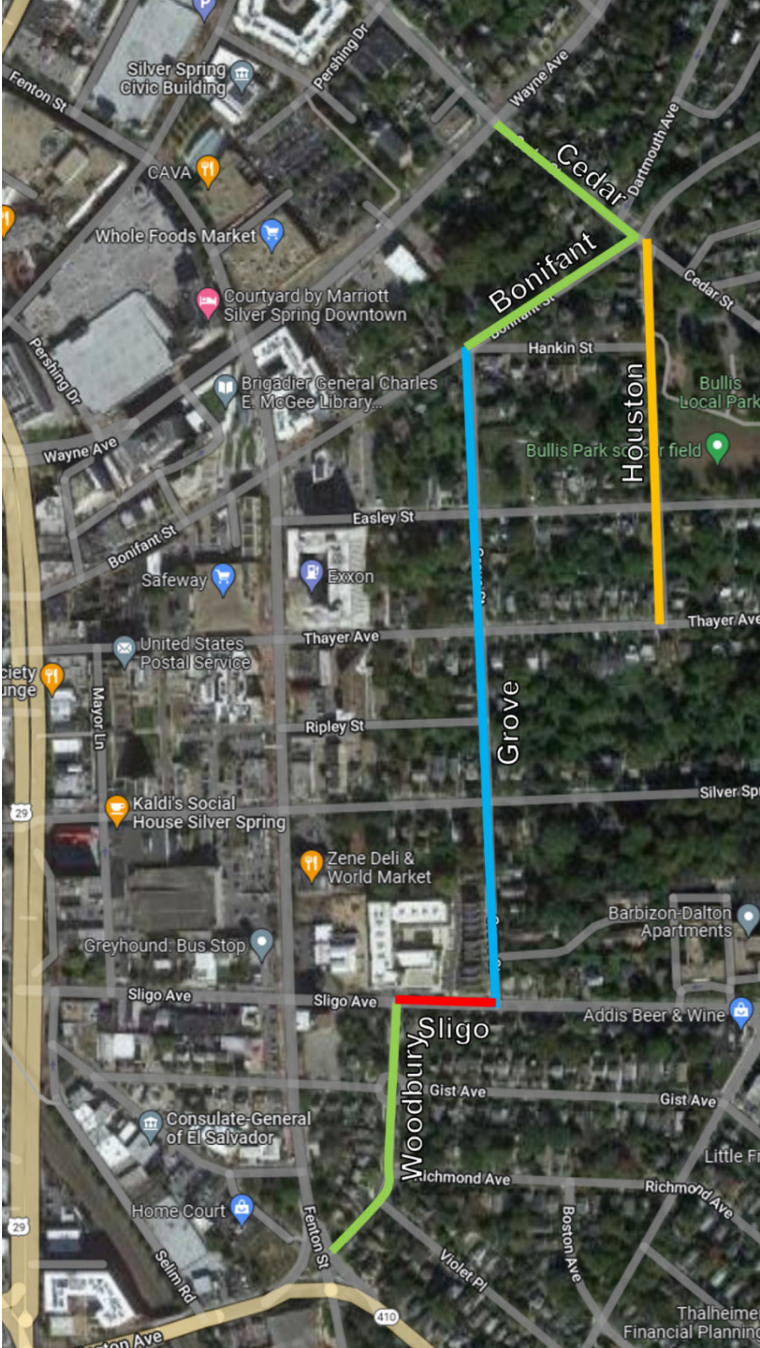
Fenton Street / Maryland 410 Intersection – Now a part of the Fenton Street Cycletrack Project.

M-C-D-O-T originally anticipated that the Fenton Street / Maryland 410 Intersection Project could be constructed on a faster timeline than the rest of Fenton Street and made it a separate project for that reason. However, permitting delays have pushed the timeline back, and it now makes sense to construct this at the same time as the Fenton Street Cycletrack. From now on, the intersection project will be considered part of the larger Fenton Street Cycletrack project.

East Silver Spring Neighborhood Greenway Update.

The East Silver Spring Neighborhood Greenway was designated by the Bicycle Master Plan, adopted in 2018. It starts at Cedar Street and Wayne Avenue and follows Cedar Street to Bonifant Street, then Bonifant Street to Grove Street, follows Grove Street to Sligo Avenue, then jogs along Sligo Avenue to Woodbury Drive, then runs down Woodbury Drive to Philadelphia Avenue. Based on concerns that the changes to Grove have pushed some traffic onto Houston Street, we are also including Houston Street in the scope of the project.

The map below shows the scope of the East Silver Spring Neighborhood Greenway. Grove Street, which will get upgrades, is shown in blue. The other streets proposed for neighborhood greenway treatments are shown in green. The stretch of Sligo Avenue that will get a low-stress bike and pedestrian connection is shown in red. Houston Street is shown in yellow.



Above image: Map of the streets included in the East Silver Spring Neighborhood Greenway.

Along Grove Street and Houston Streets, the project will add sidewalks along the western sides of both streets. Grove will also have permanent traffic calming treatments added to replace the temporary pilot treatments that are currently in place.

Woodbury Avenue, Bonifant Street, and Cedar Street will also receive some traffic calming treatments. Along Cedar Street, the existing contra-flow bike lane will be moved so that it is against the western curb and parking will be flipped to be on the east side of the street. This will eliminate the current situation, where bicyclists are sandwiched between parking and traffic going in the opposite direction.

Along Sligo Avenue, a shared-use path will be constructed on the north side of the street between Woodbury Drive and Grove Street along with a signalized crossing for cyclists and pedestrians at Woodbury and Sligo.

We presented initial concepts to the community in the fall of 2023. Since that time, we have been working to refine the design based on feedback and have completed the 30% stage of design. We expect to go before the Montgomery County Planning Board in July or September 2024.

The next step following the Planning Board hearing will be to work on the final design. That process will take several months, and is expected to last through the end of 2024. As the project moves forward, we will need to work with the utility companies on potential relocations. We may also have some minor right-of-way acquisitions.

At this time, construction is unlikely to start before spring or summer 2025. Some elements may be constructed separately from others, so the project may not be built all at once.

(Contact Information Section.)

The project websites are located at: <https://tinyurl.com/FentonVillage> and <https://tinyurl.com/Grove-Street>.

The Project Manager is Matt Johnson. His phone number is 240-777-7237. His email is Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov.

To sign up for the project update mailing list, please send an email to Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov and indicate you're interested in the Fenton Village projects mailing list.

The Division of Transportation Engineering (D-T-E) can be reached by phone at 240-777-7270. You can follow them on Twitter at @MCDOTnow. The D-T-E website is <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/index.html>.

For alternative formats of this newsletter, please contact us at 240-777-7623 (Voice). T-T-Y users call Maryland Relay.

(end contact information section).