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Transcript of Virtual Public Hearing

Date: April 3, 2024

Case: Replacement of the Dennis Avenue Bridge No. M-0194, In Re:

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

IN RE: THE PROJECT IS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE
DENNIS AVENUE BRIDGE NO. M-0194 OVER SLIGO CREEK
TRIBUTARY TO THE WHEATON BRANCH,
Public Hearing.

Case No.: M-0195
Hearing Officer: Brady Goldsmith

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
April 3, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Job: 528906
Pages: 1 - 44
Transcribed by: Pamela A. Flutie

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Public hearing conducted virtually.

Pursuant to agreement, before Lucas Shaker,
Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Lori Jean Main
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

Greg Hwang, Project Manager
Daniel Sheridan, Chief of Planning and Design
Brian Copley, Bridge Design Unit Chief
Houng Li, Greenman-Pedersen Inc. Representative
Angela Strevig, Greenman-Pedersen Inc.
Representative
Michael Mercado, Mercado Consultants
Representative
Leying Zhang, Department of Environmental
Protection

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C O N T E N T S

E X H I B I T S

NONE

Transcript of Virtual Public Hearing
Conducted on April 3, 2024

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. GOLDSMITH: Good evening. Today is Wednesday, April 3, 2024, and the time is 7 p.m. My name is Brady Goldsmith. I am the Hearing Officer Designee at this hearing for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for the replacement of the Dennis Avenue Bridge, No. M-0194 over Sligo Creek Tributary or Wheaton Branch.

Here with me this evening to conduct this public hearing are Mr. Daniel Sheridan, Chief of the Planning and Design Section for Montgomery County, Department of Transportation -- Division of Transportation Engineering, Mr. Brian Copley, Bridge Design, Chief of DTE for MCDOT, Mr. Greg Hwang, the Project Manager for MCDOT.

Mr. Sheridan will be providing the information and details regarding the proposed project.

Thank you for joining us on this virtual platform. Although we have had quite a few public -- virtual public hearings, we keep learning. So, please bear with us if we encounter any technical difficulties tonight.

Transcript of Virtual Public Hearing
Conducted on April 3, 2024

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1 Tonight's hearing is being held
2 virtually and is being recorded. A link to the
3 recording will be posted by 7 p.m. tomorrow on
4 the project web page under the project documents
5 tab. A Spanish and voiceover version of the
6 recording will also be available in the same
7 location by Wednesday, April 17, 2024. The link
8 to the project web page is provided at the top
9 of the chat on this virtual platform.

10 Please note your virtual camera is
11 turned off by default this evening. This is to
12 reduce the bandwidth of the meeting and maximize
13 technical efficiency. We request that you
14 please do not turn on your camera during this
15 hearing.

16 For the same reasons, your microphones
17 have been muted. Once the testimony portion of
18 the hearing begins, those who have signed up to
19 testify will be called upon and unmuted when it
20 their turn to speak.

21 If you have not signed up in advance
22 to testify but wish to do so, please raise your
23 hand by clicking the reactions at the bottom of
24 your screen, then clicking raise hand. If you
25 are joining us via telephone only, you may raise

Transcript of Virtual Public Hearing
Conducted on April 3, 2024

1 your hand by pressing *9 on your telephone
2 keypad. Please wait until the testimony portion
3 of this hearing to raise your hand. You may
4 raise your hand at any time during the testimony
5 portion of the hearing. We will call upon you
6 to provide your oral testimony and unmute your
7 microphone when it is your turn to speak.

8 Written testimony and comments may
9 also be submitted and considered with the same
10 weight as oral testimony.

11 Following the testimony portion of
12 this hearing, we will hold a question and answer
13 session if time allows. During that time, you
14 may raise your hand to ask a question or you are
15 welcome to type your question in the chat box by
16 clicking on the chat icon at the bottom of your
17 screen.

18 Tonight's hearing is being held
19 pursuant to Section 49-53 of the Montgomery
20 County Code. The purpose of the public hearing
21 is to obtain resident testimony and comments
22 regarding the potential project to assist in
23 determining if that project is in the best
24 interest of the public and whether or not it
25 should be authorized for construction in its

1 entirety or any portion thereof.

2 This forum allows you to provide
3 testimony either in support or in opposition to
4 the project. Testimony and comments received
5 may influence the final design.

6 Your testimony and comments should be
7 focused entirely on the project, which is the
8 topic of discussion. All interested persons are
9 entitled to be heard at this hearing. However,
10 the testimony portion of this hearing is not a
11 forum for dialogue, questions, answers, or cross
12 examination.

13 Please direct your remarks to the
14 specific project that is the subject of this
15 hearing. If your comments stray to areas
16 unrelated to the project, I will ask that you
17 refocus your comments on the subject project.

18 Following the conclusion of this
19 public hearing, the record will remain open for
20 four weeks to allow any person who was unable to
21 attend this hearing an opportunity to have their
22 comments included in the public record and be
23 fully considered.

24 The official closing date by which all
25 written testimony and comments must be received

Transcript of Virtual Public Hearing
Conducted on April 3, 2024

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1 is Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7 p.m. Submissions
2 should be emailed to
3 greghwang@greg.hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov or
4 provided by the online comment form at the
5 following link which is seen on your screen.

6 Please be sure to provide your name
7 and property address on your submission.

8 Written submissions will be considered with the
9 same weight as oral testimony.

10 After the hearing is concluded and the
11 record is officially closed, I, as the Hearing
12 Officer, will review and weigh all the
13 information submitted into the public record and
14 make a recommendation to the Director of the
15 Montgomery County Department of Transportation,
16 Christopher Conklin, for his final decision as
17 to whether the project has been shown to be in
18 the best public interest and whether or not to
19 authorize the project as proposed or any
20 portions thereof.

21 And now to discuss the replacement of
22 Dennis Avenue bridge, Number N-0194 over Sligo
23 Creek Tributary, I give you Daniel Sheridan.

24 MR. SHERIDAN: Good evening, Mr.
25 Goldsmith, ladies, and gentlemen. For the

1 record, I am Daniel Sheridan with Montgomery
2 County Department of Transportation, Division of
3 Transportation Engineering.

4 The subject of this evening's public
5 hearing is to consider a proposal to perform the
6 replacement of Dennis Avenue Bridge, Number M194
7 over Sligo Creek Tributary, the Wheaton Branch,
8 and other associated work that the bridge
9 approaches.

10 For your convenience, we have posted a
11 few downloadable displays that aid in the visual
12 description of this project on the project web
13 page. We will review them as I describe the
14 project.

15 Display A is a map showing the
16 orientation of the project site. The red lines
17 are Georgia Avenue, Dennis Avenue, and Inwood
18 Avenue.

19 The light blue line crossing Dennis
20 Avenue is Wheaton Branch, a tributary to Sligo
21 Creek, and the light blue area southeast of the
22 bridge is the Wheaton Stormwater Management
23 Pond.

24 The pink circle indicates the location
25 of the Dennis Avenue bridge approximately 1,600

1 feet east of Georgia Avenue.

2 Display B-1 quickly reviews the
3 existing Dennis Avenue bridge to be replaced.
4 The existing single-span bridge was constructed
5 in 1961. It consists of 15 precast, prestressed
6 concrete voided slab beams supported by cast-in-
7 place, reinforced concrete cantilever abutments
8 and wingwalls on concrete piles. The bridge has
9 a clear span of approximately 29 feet between
10 the faces of the abutments.

11 The 2023 biannual bridge inspection
12 report reveals that the prestressed concrete
13 voided slab beams are in poor condition with
14 spalls, cracks, and exposed reinforcement. The
15 existing Dennis Avenue bridge is in need of
16 replacement to enhance the safety of the
17 traveling public.

18 I have shown in Display B-2 the
19 existing bridge carries two 18-foot wide through
20 lanes in both directions for a total clear
21 roadway width of 36 feet. The bridge also
22 carries a 4-foot, 8-inch wide concrete sidewalk
23 and a 1-foot wide concrete barrier in both
24 directions of travel for a total out-to-out
25 bridge width of 47 feet, 4 inches.

1 Display B-3 shows a bird's eye view
2 looking north to the existing bridge and Wheaton
3 Branch.

4 Bridge Number M-194 carries Dennis
5 Avenue Traffic that runs in an east-west
6 direction between Evans Parkway and Glenhaven
7 Drive over the Wheaton Branch.

8 The last portion of Display B-4 shows
9 FEMA's map of the existing 100-year flood plain
10 in light blue along Wheaton Branch upstream and
11 downstream of the Dennis Avenue bridge.

12 Wheaton Branch goes from the northwest
13 to the bridge and then continues into the
14 Wheaton Stormwater Management Pond southeast of
15 the bridge. The flood plain encroaches
16 residential properties on Glenhaven Drive, Eldon
17 Lane, Grandin Road, and Dennis Avenue.

18 The right portion on this display
19 lists two photographs during a 2010 storm event.
20 In the yellow rectangle of the upper photograph,
21 the Dennis Avenue bridge appears to be
22 underwater. It is believed that the bridge
23 opening acts as a bottleneck limiting the flow
24 of the Wheaton Branch during large storm events
25 and excess water has no place to go but to

1 nearby streets and residential housing.

2 Display C-1 presents the elevation
3 view when looking upstream of the proposed
4 bridge over the Wheaton Branch. The proposed
5 bridge opening consists of three precast,
6 bottomless culverts placed side-by-side and
7 supported by cast-in-place, reinforced concrete
8 abutments and piers on steel H-piles.

9 The culverts will be skewed to
10 optimize the natural direction of the Wheaton
11 Branch as it flows beneath Dennis Avenue. Each
12 culvert has a clear span of 24 feet measured
13 perpendicular to the interior wall faces. The
14 overall length of the bridge will be
15 approximately 80 feet.

16 Culverts 1, 2, and 3, have a clear
17 rise of approximately 6 foot, 6 inches, and 5-
18 foot, 6 inches respectively. Culvert 2, the
19 middle culvert, spans the lowest portion of the
20 Wheaton Branch crossing, allowing the stream
21 flow for sunny days also known as base flows.

22 In case of large storm events,
23 excessive flow can pass through the openings
24 under the other two culverts, thus reducing the
25 change of flooding nearby streets and

1 residential areas.

2 Display C-2 represents the proposed
3 bridge typical roadway section. The clear
4 roadway width will match the existing clear
5 roadway width at 36 feet and will include two
6 12-foot through lanes with a 6-foot wide
7 shoulder in both directions. A 7-foot wide
8 sidewalk on the south side, and a 13-foot
9 shared-use path on the north side will be
10 provided with a 1-foot, 7-inch wide parapet on
11 both sides for a total out-to-out bridge width
12 of 59 feet, 2 inches.

13 Our sister project called the Wheaton
14 Branch Flood Mitigation by the Montgomery County
15 Department of Environmental Protection will be
16 constructed after the bridge replacement
17 project. The sister project is proposed to
18 enlarge the Wheaton Branch upstream and
19 downstream of the Dennis Avenue bridge, remove
20 sediment in the Wheaton Stormwater Management
21 Pond immediately downstream of the Dennis Avenue
22 bridge, and modify the release structure of the
23 Wheaton Stormwater Management Pond.

24 The right portion of Display C-3
25 presents the proposed 100-year flood plain in

1 blue as the result of the DOT's bridge
2 replacement project and the DEP's, Department of
3 Environment Protection's flood mitigation
4 project combined.

5 If the opening of the proposed Dennis
6 Avenue bridge is enlarged and the Wheaton Branch
7 and Wheaton Stormwater Management Pond are
8 improved, the chances of flooding to nearby
9 streets and residential houses are reduced.

10 The flood plain footprint retreats
11 from Glenhaven Drive, Eldon Lane, Grandin Road,
12 and Dennis Avenue to the Wheaton Branch under
13 100-year storm.

14 Display C-4 presents a bird's eye view
15 looking north rendering of the proposed bridge
16 and enlarged Wheaton Branch after the completion
17 of the project and the Department of
18 Environmental Protection's sister project.

19 The project area is utility dense.
20 There are overhead power lines,
21 telecommunication, cable, gas, fiber optics, and
22 water and sewer mains that conflict with the
23 bridge replacement.

24 [Indiscernible] have relocated their
25 electric poles and power lines to the further

1 upstream of the Wheaton Branch. Verizon,
2 Comcast, Washington Gas, and DF&I relocation
3 will take place by utility owners prior to the
4 construction of the bridge.

5 Display C-5 presents the relocation
6 plan of the impacted WSSC water main and sewer
7 line. The light blue line depicts the relocated
8 12-inch water main, and the green line depicts
9 the relocated 8-inch sewer line. Their
10 relocation is part of the project and will take
11 place prior to the demolition of the existing
12 bridge. The bridge will be closed to traffic
13 during construction before the existing bridge
14 is demolished.

15 Display D-1 depicts the pedestrian
16 bicycle detour route to maintain traffic during
17 construction. The blue arrows in the map
18 represent the eastbound detour of the pedestrian
19 and bicycle traffic from Evans Parkway to
20 Glenhaven Drive. The red arrows represent the
21 detour in the reverse direction.

22 An 8-foot wide temporary pedestrian
23 and bike shared-use path, including a temporary
24 pedestrian bridge, with the same width
25 traversing the Wheaton Branch will be provided

1 for safe pedestrian and bicycle access and
2 minimize impact to residential properties during
3 the construction.

4 Temporary concrete barriers are to be
5 provided to prevent vehicular traffic from
6 entering the work zone. Proper temporary
7 traffic detour signage will be installed in both
8 directions along the detour route.

9 Display D-2 depicts the vehicle
10 traffic detour route for the maintenance of
11 traffic during the bridge demotion and
12 construction.

13 The black circle indicates location of
14 the new bridge and the nearby orange line
15 depicts the limits of the roadway closure, which
16 is from the east of Evans Parkway to the west of
17 Grandin Road. Georgia Avenue, also known as
18 Maryland 97, and Viers Mill Road, also known as
19 Maryland 586, and University Boulevard, also
20 known as Maryland 193, are used to redirect the
21 traffic of Dennis Avenue, forming a detour
22 route.

23 The blue arrows in the map represent
24 the detour of the Dennis Avenue westbound
25 traffic clockwise in the loop, and the red

1 arrows represent the eastbound detour in the
2 reverse direction, counter-clockwise in the
3 loop.

4 Likewise, proper temporary traffic
5 detour signages will be installed for both
6 directions along these detour routes. The
7 bridge and roadway closure during the bridge
8 demolition and construction is currently planned
9 to begin after schools are closed for the 2025
10 summer break and is expected to continue beyond
11 the -- before the summer break until the bridge
12 is reopened to traffic.

13 As mentioned, detour vehicular traffic
14 is planned to shorten construction duration and
15 pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained
16 with temporary pedestrian bridge and shared-use
17 path.

18 Montgomery County Department of
19 Transportation and its contractor will closely
20 coordinate with the police, fire and rescue, and
21 public schools. The construction work hours
22 will follow the county noise ordinance.

23 The project has minimal easements and
24 right-of-way needs and does not require
25 purchasing private properties. It also has a

1 erosion and sediment control plan to reduce the
2 impact of storm events that may occur during the
3 construction period on the cleared and grubbed
4 earth surface within and near the Wheaton
5 Branch.

6 In addition, MCDOT and it's contractor
7 will work with WSSC to minimize the [inaudible]
8 of water main and sewer lines.

9 The total project cost is estimated
10 for \$10,870,0000 including bridge replacement,
11 land acquisition, and utility relocation costs,
12 including both water and sewer. The federal
13 government's share is \$6,510,000, Montgomery
14 County's share is \$4,006,000, and WSSC's share
15 is \$300,000, which covers 50% of the water main
16 and sewer line relocation costs.

17 The project's design began in April
18 2018 and is expected to be completed in the
19 summer of 2024.

20 The construction is anticipated to
21 take approximately 30 to 35 weeks starting in
22 the spring of 2025 and ending in the fall of
23 2025, approximately 8 to 10 weeks for the water
24 main and sewer line relocation and approximately
25 22 to 25 weeks for the bridge replacement.

1 The project costs, funding, and
2 schedule are subject to change as the project
3 progresses until it is complete.

4 Pursuant to Section 49-52 of the
5 Montgomery County Code, no properties are
6 considered to be specifically benefited by the
7 proposed improvement. Therefore, no properties
8 are expected to be assessed.

9 Several exhibits are incorporated into
10 the public record binder for your information
11 and consideration. The exhibits include:

- 12 1. The approved fiscal year of 2023 to 2028
13 and recommended fiscal year '25 to '30
14 project description form for the capital
15 improvement program, CIP number P50-1701
16 Dennis Avenue Bridge, Number M-194.
- 17 2. The designs plans at the level of 90%
18 completion with the latest revisions.
- 19 3. The 2023 biannual bridge inspection
20 report.
- 21 4. Washington Times newspaper online
22 advertisement proof and Montgomery County
23 Governmental press release.
- 24 5. Written testimony provided prior to and
25 after this public hearing.

- 1 6. List of attendees to be added following
2 the hearing.
- 3 7. A hearing transcript is also going to be
4 added following the hearing. Project-
5 related data and files can be downloaded
6 from the project web page listed below or
7 listed on the screen. The files are to
8 remain available to the public until the
9 record for this public hearing is
10 officially closed.

11 As previously stated, Mr. Brian Copley
12 and Mr. Greg Hwang of MCDOT are here with us
13 this evening. In addition, we have Ms. Angela
14 Strevig and Mr. Hounq Li from the Engineering
15 and Consulting Firm Greenman-Pederson,
16 Incorporate, and Mr. Michael Mercado from the
17 Engineering and Consulting Firm, Mercado
18 Consultants, Incorporated.

19 We will be available after the hearing
20 to answer any questions regarding the
21 construction of this project.

22 Now, I will turn things back over to
23 Mr. Goldsmith.

24 PUBLIC TESTIMONY

25 MR. GOLDSMITH: Thank you, Mr.

1 Sheridan.

2 We will now hear testimony from those
3 in attendance who wish to testify. If you have
4 not signed up to testify but would like to,
5 please click on the reaction button at the
6 bottom menu bar and click the raise hand icon to
7 raise your hand. Alternatively, if you joined
8 the meeting by phone, you may dial *9 from your
9 telephone keypad to let us know that you wish to
10 testify.

11 Once you are invited to speak, please
12 clearly provide your name and address for the
13 record before beginning your testimony. We will
14 start with those who have already signed up to
15 testify at this evening's hearing. Again,
16 please be sure to announce your name and
17 property address before providing your
18 testimony.

19 Now, we will go to testimony. So, if
20 I can get assistance to ensure that we get the
21 individuals who would like to speak in order, I
22 would appreciate that. Lori Main, can you
23 please announce the speakers.

24 MS. MAIN: Absolutely. Well, we had
25 one speaker signed up, but I do not see that

1 that person is here, and we don't have any
2 raised hands currently. But there were a couple
3 of questions that came in the comments received
4 prior to the hearing. So, we'll start with
5 those.

6 Oh, actually, Jerome Charba has just
7 raised his hand. So, let's hear from him first.
8 Jerome, can you unmute yourself?

9 MR. CHARBA: Okay. Can you hear me
10 now?

11 MS. MAIN: Yeah.

12 MR. CHARBA: Okay. My name is Jerome
13 -- Jerome Charba. My address is 1906 Etna
14 Place, and when I saw the flyer in the mail in
15 March concerning this public hearing, it caught
16 me completely by surprise because I thought all
17 the public hearings regarding both the DEP and
18 the DOT, you know, bridge construction projects,
19 I thought those hearings were conducted over the
20 past couple of years.

21 So, this took me by total surprise,
22 and I thought, in fact, based on the
23 communications that I've had with DEP personnel,
24 that the construction would have already begun
25 by now, at least in the -- the streambed

1 upstream of the bridge. But then I -- so I sent
2 an E-mail to Leying or whatever, I sent an E-
3 mail and said -- they said the response was that
4 the two projects are separate and the DOT
5 project would need to be, you know, approved and
6 completed before the DEP streambed project could
7 begin.

8 So, that's where, you know, so that
9 all caught me by surprise because, you know,
10 this really has been a big delay in the entire
11 thing when I, you know, when we were in
12 discussions saying that, you know, the project
13 would have already been completed by now.

14 So, was there anything that caused
15 this to be, you know, you know, you know, redone
16 again that, you know, has caused this delay? Am
17 I -- am I off base on something here?

18 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang, the
19 Project Manager with Department of
20 Transportation. Concerning the delay of these
21 two projects is because it took a long process
22 for State Highway Administration to review and
23 approve the design of the bridge replacement
24 project. This is a federal funded project. So
25 it has to be reviewed and approved by the State

1 Highway Administration and the process is long
2 and delayed, and it's not -- it's out of our
3 control. And so, that's why the project is --
4 was delayed.

5 And the previous public hearing
6 meeting actually that you referred was a joint
7 public meeting for these two projects, and that
8 was not a hearing. This event today is the
9 public hearing just for the bridge replacement
10 project.

11 MR. CHARBA: Okay. Can you still hear
12 me? Can I ask another -- a followup question?

13 MS. MAIN: Absolutely.

14 MR. CHARBA: Okay. Concerning the --
15 the detour, during the construction of the
16 bridge, I wasn't clear on exactly where that
17 detour was going to go. You know, I thought I
18 saw Evans Parkway. I think I saw Grandin Drive.
19 And, you know, Etna Place is between those two.
20 I'm on Etna Place. And so, is all that traffic
21 going to be, you know, funneled through Etna
22 Place then? Am I still on -- am I still on?
23 I'm not hearing any response.

24 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang with
25 MCDOT again. I would like to ask the

1 engineering consultant, Greenman-Pedersen
2 Incorporation to provide you more information
3 about the detour.

4 MR. CHARBA: The concern I have here
5 is that, you know, Etna Place is a small street
6 and, you know, it doesn't have -- it doesn't
7 handle a lot of traffic. If that detour is
8 going to go through there, that would be
9 surprising that that street could handle that
10 much traffic.

11 MR. HWANG: No. Actually, the detour
12 will -- if you can see the map on the screen
13 right now, the detour will go through the
14 Georgia Avenue and University Boulevard and
15 coming back to Dennis Avenue in this route. And
16 these roadways have the classification higher or
17 equal to the Dennis Avenue and we have received
18 approval from State Highway Administration,
19 District 3, to use Georgia Avenue and also Viers
20 Mill Road as well and University Boulevard to be
21 the route for the detour.

22 So the traffic -- these three selected
23 roadways should have a capacity to handle the
24 traffic during the detour.

25 MR. CHARBA: Well, during the detour,

1 you know, Dennis Avenue will not handle any
2 traffic, correct?

3 MR. HWANG: Well, they will not be
4 able to pass the bridge and the roadway as
5 identified in orange, will not have the traffic
6 to cross. But the remaining portion of Dennis
7 Avenue will still be open to the traffic.

8 MR. CHARBA: Well, then that traffic
9 has to detour around the bridge, correct?

10 MR. HWANG: No, the detour will be
11 going either clockwise following the Georgia
12 Avenue and University Boulevard and coming back
13 Dennis Avenue. And for the counterclockwise,
14 following Georgia -- Dennis Avenue and
15 University Boulevard, Viers Mill Road and
16 Georgia Avenue coming back to Dennis Avenue.
17 But no traffic can cross the bridge.

18 MR. CHARBA: Then the traffic has to
19 turn around when they meet the bridge.

20 MR. HWANG: Yes. We will have proper
21 traffic detour signage installed along the
22 entire detour route.

23 MR. CHARBA: Okay. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MR. HWANG: You're welcome.

1 MS. MAIN: Okay. We have another --
2 another testimony from Elizabeth Brigham.

3 MS. BRIGHAM: I think what is
4 confusing is the map that you showed that was up
5 and down that showed Evans Parkway with arrows
6 on it. So, it's not this one, it's another one.
7 This one. Doesn't it show -- no that's -- there
8 was another one that was a closeup that showed
9 Evans Parkway with arrows going across to Dennis
10 Avenue. It was going straight up and down.

11 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang again,
12 and there's only two maps showing the detour,
13 the one you are seeing now, it's a detour for
14 the pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

15 MS. BRIGHAM: I know. But this is not
16 the screen diagram that showed -- it's not this
17 one, it's another one that shows a closeup of
18 Evans Drive. You just had it up there a while
19 ago.

20 MR. HWANG: Let me go through each one
21 of them to see which one you referred to. I can
22 start from the beginning to show you all the
23 slides. If you see any of them --

24 MS. BRIGHAM: No, I did not see the
25 repeat of -- that -- no.

1 MR. HWANG: This one?

2 MS. BRIGHAM: Not that one, but the
3 one that showed Evans Drive on it.

4 MR. HWANG: Showed Evans Drive on it.

5 MS. BRIGHAM: You're going so fast.

6 MR. HWANG: I'm sorry.

7 MS. MAIN: Greg, go slower so she can
8 see which one it was.

9 MS. BRIGHAM: It's not that one. It's
10 not that one. It's not that one. It was
11 straight up and down, not going across like
12 that. It was a small, thin, skinny diagram.
13 But it did show Evans Drive with some arrows
14 going over to maybe Glenhaven. I don't know
15 where it was going. I think that was where it
16 was confusing.

17 MR. HWANG: I don't see any map. I'm
18 going through every map --

19 MS. BRIGHAM: I know.

20 MR. HWANG: -- that we have been
21 showing, and I don't see any map like what you
22 have described.

23 MS. BRIGHAM: Okay, all right. So,
24 the detour will be completely from Georgia
25 Avenue up to University and down University back

1 to Dennis to come back down to any of the houses
2 and stuff that are on the other side of the
3 bridge.

4 MR. HWANG: That's correct.

5 MS. BRIGHAM: Okay. We can still go
6 down Dennis Avenue to get to the street that
7 goes over to the medical park buildings.

8 MR. HWANG: Right.

9 MS. BRIGHAM: Okay. I think the issue
10 is more that than most anything right now.

11 MS. MAIN: Okay. Thank you,
12 Elizabeth.

13 Let's see. We have a couple of
14 questions in the chat.

15 Shawn Randall of 10308 Inwood Avenue
16 has asked, Can you share the drawing of the
17 effects the project will have on the flood plain
18 downstream from the Stormwater Management Pond.

19 MR. HWANG: What is referred?

20 MR. SHERIDAN: So, I think the
21 question is are there any maps that show effects
22 downstream in the Stormwater Management Pond.

23 MR. HWANG: Oh.

24 MR. SHERIDAN: This project does not
25 have any, but perhaps the Department of

1 Environmental Protection might. But in general,
2 there will be no downstream effect from the
3 Stormwater Management Pond because the outflow
4 from the pond is controlled by the structure in
5 the pond.

6 But we can ask our colleagues at
7 Department of Environmental Protection if they
8 have any downstream maps to share. They're not
9 available tonight though.

10 MS. ZHANG: Hello, this is Leying
11 Zhang. I'm from DEP. I can share the
12 downstream flood plain map with you, Shawn. If
13 you leave your contact information, I will reach
14 out to you.

15 MR. SHERIDAN: Thank you.

16 MS. MAIN: Wonderful. Okay.

17 MR. HWANG: Send me an E-mail and then
18 I will forward that to Ms. Zhang for her to
19 answer and provide you the map.

20 MS. MAIN: That works.

21 MR. GOLDSMITH: Lori, I've got one, I
22 think, one directly to me.

23 MS. MAIN: Okay.

24 MR. GOLDSMITH: Forgive me if I'm
25 pronouncing this wrong, Sebastian Cianci. Is

1 the work starting in spring 2025 or after the
2 school year ends in summer 2025, or does the
3 work start in the spring but the bridge doesn't
4 get closed until June?

5 MR. SHERIDAN: So, that's correct.
6 The work starts in spring of 2025, but the
7 closure doesn't happen until after the school
8 year is over in June -- late June of 2025. The
9 work will start that leads up to that, but it
10 will not include the bridge closure until after
11 the school year is over.

12 MS. MAIN: Okay. I have another
13 question in the chat from Heather Laing. She
14 says, I live on Glenhaven Drive next to Eldon.
15 Given that Glenhaven Drive is one way and access
16 will be closed from Dennis Avenue, will traffic
17 be open both -- will traffic be open to traffic
18 both ways during construction so that we can
19 enter from the other direction? Will it still
20 be possible to park in front of our house, as
21 this street is primarily street parking.

22 MR. SHERIDAN: This is Dan Sheridan.
23 I think that's a question that we'll have to
24 verify with our Division of Traffic Engineering
25 and Operations. I don't know that anybody is

1 here from that tonight. But we can -- we can
2 review that question with them and get an answer
3 back to you.

4 And then, as far as street parking, it
5 should be allowed unless it's in immediate
6 vicinity, you know, of the construction.

7 MS. MAIN: Okay, great. Let's see.
8 Can the map picture be enlarged? Jeremy Hen
9 would like us to enlarge. Which -- I don't know
10 which map.

11 MR. SHERIDAN: I would need to know
12 which map.

13 MS. MAIN: Brian Shaw from 1511
14 Gridley Lane would like to know, Do you have any
15 information on the hearing for DEP's portion of
16 the project? Is there a scenario where the
17 bridge project proceeds, but DEP's project does
18 not?

19 MS. ZHANG: This is Leying Zhang again
20 from DEP. I can take that question. The
21 current schedule, you know, after the bridge
22 project has completed construction, then the
23 flood mitigation, you know, which is the DEP
24 project will come in. Right now, it's under the
25 permitting process. It's still, you know, it's

1 still -- it will be constructed after the DOT
2 project.

3 MR. SHERIDAN: Yeah, I think another
4 way to answer that is both projects are fully
5 funded. So, as soon as the permitting and
6 design processes are complete, then construction
7 can begin.

8 And again, the DOT project bridge
9 replacement will go first, and then the DEP
10 project will follow after.

11 MS. ZHANG: That's correct.

12 MR. SHERIDAN: But they're both fully
13 funded.

14 MS. MAIN: All right. We have another
15 question from Jerome Charba. Can you unmute,
16 Jerome?

17 MR. CHARBA: You stated that the DEP
18 flood mitigation project will follow the bridge
19 construction project, and you said that the DEP
20 project is in the permitting stage. Now, is
21 there the possibility that permits will get
22 delayed, that the project cannot immediately
23 follow the bridge construction project?

24 MS. ZHANG: This is Leying Zhang
25 again. It is possible, as, you know, we will

1 have to get fully permitted to be able to start
2 on the construction. Of course, you know, we'll
3 try to avoid that, if possible. But there's
4 still uncertainties in there. We will need to
5 get all the permits before we can start the
6 construction.

7 MR. CHARBA: So, who issues those
8 permits? I mean, is that totally, you know,
9 other agencies that have to approve those
10 permits?

11 MS. ZHANG: Yeah. As you know, you
12 know, specific to the flood mitigation ones, we
13 have review agencies including the Department of
14 Permitting Services, DPS, WSSC for the sewer
15 line, and also MDE for the waterway and
16 construction. So, that's multiple regulatory
17 agencies that we will need to work with.

18 MR. CHARBA: You know, it's a little
19 bit surprising that, you know, that permitting
20 is taking so long, because I was under the
21 impression already -- I was under the impression
22 already that the permitting had started, you
23 know, a year or two ago.

24 MS. ZHANG: Yeah, it is. But, you
25 know, it's all -- it's all in sequence, and for

1 the construction sequence, even the DOT project
2 is not completed and the DEP project cannot move
3 forward. But, in the meantime, you know, with
4 the DOT project being finalized, then we can
5 update our final design with the, you know, the
6 DOT's final plans. That way, we can resubmit to
7 the review agencies for the approval.

8 MR. CHARBA: Okay, thank you.

9 MS. ZHANG: Sure.

10 MS. MAIN: Thank you, Jerome.

11 I have another question in the chat
12 from Amy C. She would like to know whether if
13 you have alerted MCPS specifically, Sligo Middle
14 School, about the bus route, the detour, and how
15 will they be affected.

16 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang. We
17 have contacted Montgomery County Public Schools
18 to inform them about the bridge closure and also
19 the impact to the school bus operations. And
20 the school bus is aware of this project, and
21 they will plan for the school bus detours.

22 MS. MAIN: Okay. We also have a
23 question from Jamie at 10600 Inwood Avenue.
24 Won't most people end up using Inwood or Sligo
25 Creek Parkway to bypass the bridge on the east

1 side? Just wondering how much traffic to expect
2 on my street.

3 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang. We
4 would not be able to predict how much traffic
5 would like to use Sligo Creek Parkway and Inwood
6 Avenue for the detour. We can only do is
7 provide a detour route as what is shown on the
8 plan to allow people to use. And so, therefore,
9 we cannot predict the traffic -- how much
10 traffic that people will use for other streets
11 within the area.

12 MS. MAIN: Okay. We have another
13 question from Amy C. She asks, Will the detour
14 impact pedestrians, including students?

15 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang again.
16 The detour route will certainly have some impact
17 for the students who walk to the school and also
18 who go to the school by driving. It definitely
19 will. For the impact to the students walking to
20 the school or bicycling to the school will be
21 minimum because we have provided temporary
22 shared-use path and temporary bridge very close
23 to the bridge on Dennis Avenue. But for the
24 traffic that goes to the school, the traffic
25 will take a longer detour route. It depends on

1 where it is. So, some people will be affected.

2 MS. MAIN: Okay. That is the last
3 question that I have in the chat. Let's move
4 from -- let's move to the questions that were
5 received in the comments.

6 Hannah Pitt says, Please use this
7 opportunity to enhance pedestrian safety. Many
8 kids and parents walk along Dennis Avenue. The
9 middle school is just down the way. Dennis is
10 more than wide enough to add bike lanes and
11 widen the sidewalk. The speed limit is 30 miles
12 per hour until you hit Sligo, where east of the
13 creek, it drops to 25, and there are lots of
14 speed signs and warnings. Why do we not have
15 that protection on the western side?

16 I think that's a question for traffic.

17 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang. The
18 requested pedestrian safety improvement along
19 Dennis Avenue actually is beyond the scope of
20 the Dennis Avenue bridge replacement project.
21 However, it can be considered under the Sidewalk
22 Program by the Department of Transportation.
23 For more information about the Sidewalk Program
24 can be found in our Sidewalk Program website. I
25 can ask Lori, who is also the Sidewalk Program

1 planning specialist to share with you the link
2 for the website.

3 MS. MAIN: Yes. You will find the
4 link to the Sidewalk Program website at the top
5 of the chat -- this evening's chat -- right
6 under the link to the Dennis Avenue Bridge
7 website if you scroll up, and you can go on our
8 website and request sidewalk, and those -- those
9 requests will have a field inspection scheduled
10 and they will be prioritized based on safety and
11 other pedestrian generators such as restrooms,
12 pools, et cetera. So, yes. You can absolutely
13 request sidewalks.

14 Okay. Our next question from Sarah
15 Rhodes, I would like more information on efforts
16 to preserve trees around the creek. We have
17 lived on Glenhaven for more than fifteen years
18 and love our creek, its trees, and the wildlife
19 it attracts. I'd like to see effort put into
20 preserving the trees. The rendering looks as
21 though they will be razed and replaced with
22 pebbles and grass.

23 MR. HWANG: This is Greg Hwang. And
24 we would like to have the engineering consultant
25 from Greenman-Pedersen, Incorporation to answer

1 about preserving the trees. So, either Angie or
2 Houg, either one of you can answer the
3 question.

4 MR. LI: Sure. Good afternoon, ladies
5 and gentlemen. This is Houg Li from -- with
6 Greenman and Pedersen, the consultant firm that
7 helped county to design the project.

8 For this question, we would like to
9 reply that the rendering focuses more on the new
10 bridge and new roadway, but it does not include
11 a landscape feature for this project. Tree
12 protection fence will be used to protect the
13 trees at the edge of the project side.

14 For trees that are removed due to the
15 Dennis Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the
16 Wheaton Bridge Flood Mitigation Project, the
17 [indiscernible] project, new trees will be
18 planted at the project site to compensate.

19 The landscape and the tree-saving plan
20 will be reviewed and approved by the Maryland
21 Department of Natural Resources and the
22 Montgomery County Department of Permitting
23 Service.

24 MS. MAIN: All right. That's the last
25 question I have.

1 MR. GOLDSMITH: Does anyone have any
2 more questions? If not, thank you again to
3 everyone who participate in the Q&A. Based on
4 the fact that we don't have any more questions,
5 we will conclude this hearing at this time.

6 Please note that you can E-mail your
7 questions to the Project Manager, Mr. Greg
8 Hwang, after the hearing.

9 So, seeing that all questions have
10 been answered, we will now conclude this
11 hearing.

12 As a reminder, we will keep the record
13 open for four weeks. Written testimony and
14 comments are due by Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7
15 p.m. Additional written testimony and comments
16 may be submitted by E-mail and must be received
17 by the close of this hearing record.

18 Submissions should be sent to Mr. Greg Hwang,
19 whose E-mail address you see on the screen or
20 can be submitted online in the comment form at
21 the following link, which is also seen on your
22 screen, in English and in Spanish.

23 Certainly, we appreciate all of you
24 participating, and thank you for your comments
25 and questions.

1 At this time, the public hearing is
2 now concluded. Have a great evening, everyone.

3 [Whereupon the public hearing was concluded.]

4 [Off the record at 7:50 p.m.]

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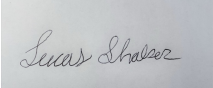
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2 I, Lucas Shaker, the officer before whom the
3 foregoing hearing was undertaken, do hereby
4 certify that said proceedings were
5 electronically recorded by me; and that I am
6 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by
7 any of the parties to this case and have no
8 interest, financial or otherwise, in its
9 outcome.

10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
11 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 3rd day
12 of April, 2024.

13 

14 _____
15 Lucas Shaker, Notary Public for the State of
16 Maryland

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I, Pamela A. Flutie, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by and of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

Pamela A. Flutie

Pamela A. Flutie

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