

Virtual Public Hearing

Redwing Road Sidewalk Proposal

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
6:30 p.m.

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INTRODUCTION

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Michael Paylor, Hearing Officer, Speaking ~

Good evening. It is Wednesday, February 11, 2026, and the time is approximately 6:30 pm. My name is Michael Paylor, designee at this hearing for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). Here with me this evening to conduct this public hearing is Mr. Joseph Moges, Chief of MCDOT's Division of Transportation Engineering (DTE), and Mr. Robert Gonzales, Manager of the Sidewalk Program. Also in attendance are Mr. Juan Berrios, Field Supervisor, Mr. Daniel Hagos Kamara, Construction Representative, and Ms. Lori Main, Planning Specialist, all with the Sidewalk Program. Mr. Gonzales will provide information and details regarding the proposed project.

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Thank you for joining us on this virtual platform. Please bear with us if we encounter any technical difficulties tonight. Tonight's hearing is being recorded. A link to the recording will be posted on the Sidewalk Program website by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. A link and QR code to the Sidewalk Program's website will be provided

throughout tonight's presentation, and is at the top of the chat box on this virtual platform.

You may also notice that your video camera is turned off by default this evening. To reduce the bandwidth of the meeting and maximize technical efficiency, we request that you please do not turn your video camera on. Likewise, your microphones have been muted. Once the testimony portion of this hearing begins, those who have signed up to testify will be called on and asked to unmute when it is their turn to speak. Once invited to unmute, you can unmute yourself by clicking the microphone icon at the bottom left of your screen. If you have not signed up in advance to testify but wish to do so, please "raise your hand" by clicking on the "React" icon at the bottom of your screen and then clicking "Raise Hand." If you are joining us via telephone only, you may raise your hand by pressing star-nine (*9) on your telephone keypad and star-six (*6) to unmute yourself once invited to unmute. Please wait until the testimony portion of this hearing to raise your hand. You may raise your hand at any time during the testimony portion. We will call on you to provide your oral testimony and ask you to unmute your microphone when it is your turn to speak. Written testimony and comments may be submitted as well and will be considered with the same weight as oral testimony. If time allows after the testimony portion of this Hearing, we will hold a question-and-answer session. You may also

raise your hand to ask a question, or you are welcome to type your question in the Chat box, the icon for which is at the bottom of your screen.

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Tonight's hearing is being held pursuant to Section 49-53 of the Montgomery County Code. The purpose of a public hearing is to obtain testimony regarding the potential project to assist in determining if the project is in the best interest of the public, and whether the project should be authorized for construction in its entirety, or any portion thereof. This forum allows you to provide testimony either in support of or in opposition to the project. Public comments should be focused entirely on **the Redwing Road Sidewalk Project**. 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. **Please direct your remarks to the specific project that is the subject of this hearing.** If comments stray into areas unrelated to this project, I will ask that you refocus your comments on the proposed sidewalk project.

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Following the conclusion of this public hearing, the record will remain open for 4 weeks to allow any person who was unable to attend this hearing an opportunity to have their written testimony and comments included in the public record for full consideration. The official closing date by which all comments and testimony must

be received is Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Submissions may be emailed to Lori Main, whose email address is provided in tonight's presentation, sent via regular mail, or submitted via the online comment form and must be received or postmarked by the close of the hearing record. Please be sure to provide your name and property address on your submission. Written submissions will be considered with the same weight as oral testimony.

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After the hearing is concluded and the record is officially closed, I, as Hearing Officer, will review and weigh all information submitted into the public record and make a recommendation to the Director of MCDOT, Chris Conklin, for his final decision as to whether the project has been shown to be in the best public interest and whether to authorize the project as proposed or any portions thereof. And now, to discuss the sidewalk proposal for Redwing Road, I give you Robert Gonzales.

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Robert Gonzales speaking ~

Good evening, Messrs. Paylor, Berrios, and Kamara, Ms. Main, ladies, and gentlemen. The subject of this evening's public hearing is to consider a proposal to construct a five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk adjacent to the curb on Redwing Road.

For your convenience, we have posted a few displays that aid the visual description of this project. This presentation and the recorded hearing will be posted on the Sidewalk Program website by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, February 12, 2026. They are:

Display A: Display A is an aerial project vicinity map of the proposed sidewalks on Redwing Road relative to the existing sidewalk network. 5-foot-wide, concrete sidewalks are proposed on the west side of Redwing Road. The proposed sidewalks are shown in red, and the existing sidewalks are shown in yellow. The total length of proposed installations is approximately 782 linear feet.

The new sidewalks will connect to the existing sidewalks on Stardust Lane, providing enhanced pedestrian safety to and from MD-190/River Road and MD-614/Goldsboro Road and the public transportation amenities located along each. The new sidewalks will also connect to the Walt Whitman High School, the Kenwood Golf and Country Club, and destinations south of Goldsboro Road. These other destinations include the Woodacres Elementary School, the Woodacres local park and field, Fourth Presbyterian Church, the Kenwood Station shopping center, McDonald's, Starbucks, the Washington Episcopal School, and the Capital Crescent Trail.

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Display B1: Display B1 shows Page 1 of the engineered concept of the proposed sidewalk between the existing sidewalks on Redwing Road and Stardust Lane and

Redwing Court. A 5-foot-wide sidewalk is planned to connect to the existing sidewalks on Redwing Road. The existing 4-foot-wide sidewalks will be replaced and widened to 5 feet. ADA-compliant ramps will be installed on both sides of Redwing Court. All driveway aprons and lead walks within the public right-of-way will be replaced with concrete.

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Display B2: Display B2 shows Page 2 of the engineered concept of the proposed sidewalk between MD 614 / Goldsboro Road and Redwing Court. A 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk is similarly planned with ADA-compliant ramps installed at MD 614 / Goldsboro Road. All driveway aprons and lead walks within the public right-of-way will be replaced with concrete.

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Display C: Display C provides a typical section of the proposed sidewalk, which will be installed fully within the County's public right-of-way. Montgomery County has 50 feet of public right-of-way on Redwing Road. The roadway is 26 feet wide, leaving 24 feet of available right-of-way, or 12 feet of available public right-of-way on each side of Redwing Road. The public right-of-way is reserved for amenities that benefit the public, such as sidewalks. The sidewalk depicted in the picture was installed in Bethesda in 2021.

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PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

MCDOT evaluates requests for pedestrian facilities based on their ability to serve public use and enhance public safety. The main goal of installing sidewalks is to remove pedestrians from the path of vehicular traffic and create a separation between pedestrians and the roadway. The installation of sidewalks is also a key component of the County's Climate Action Plan, providing infrastructure for pedestrians to walk safely to local destinations and public transportation amenities. The new sidewalks will establish safer access for pedestrians of all ages and people with disabilities. Pedestrian safety will be improved for the entire community.

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TREE REMOVAL / REPLACEMENT

To make way for the sidewalk installations, the County arborist has prescribed 5 right-of-way tree removals. The potential tree removals are reflected in the engineered concept plan. Please know that the County does not take tree removals lightly. Trees are a majestic ally in the fight against climate change, cleaning our air of harmful emissions and providing cooling shade and neighborhood beauty. For every tree removed, the Sidewalk Program will plant 3 trees in the public right-of-way. 15 trees will be planted to replace the 5 trees removed on Redwing Road. Those who reside adjacent to a right-of-way tree slated for removal can view the available replacement tree species on the Division of Highway Services' Tree Maintenance

website. The QR code and link to the Tree Maintenance website are displayed on your screen. Following the installations, if approved, the County Arborist will visit each property adjacent to a right-of-way tree removal to discuss your preferred replacement tree species and their placement in the right-of-way adjacent to your property.

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COST AND ASSESSMENTS

The estimated cost for installing the Redwing Road sidewalks is approximately \$169,850.40. Estimated costs include construction, inspection, and administrative costs. Funding for this project will be provided under the County's Sidewalk Program, CIP Project No. 0506747. There are no properties considered to be specially benefited by the proposed improvement. Therefore, no properties are expected to be assessed.

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EXHIBITS

As previously discussed, several exhibits are incorporated into the Public Record binder for your information and consideration.

The exhibits include:

1. Office of Management & Budget; Sidewalk Program Minor Projects P506747;
2. Engineered Concept Plan;
3. Public Right of Way Construction Impacts Report;
4. Montgomery County Press Release circulated via email and published on X (formerly Twitter), Blue Sky, Reddit, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Threads on January 12th and 27th, 2026; The Washington Times Legal Advertisement published on January 28th and February 4th, 2026, and highlighted in *Go Montgomery!* newsletter.
5. Written testimony in support of the proposed sidewalks;
6. Written testimony in opposition to the proposed sidewalks;
7. List of Attendees, to be added following this hearing;
8. Hearing Transcript, also to be added following the hearing.

Project-related data and files can be downloaded from the Sidewalk Program's website. Copies of the Public Hearing Record may be requested via email to Lori.Main@montgomerycountymd.gov, once the Hearing Record for this project closes on March 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

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If the proposed sidewalks are approved, MCDOT will utilize a work order contract currently in place with the Division of Transportation Engineering to install

the sidewalks. If approved and authorized for construction, we anticipate installation during this year's construction season, which extends from March 15 to November 30, weather permitting. If authorized as presented, the construction of the proposed sidewalks is anticipated to take approximately 2 to 4 weeks, weather permitting.

As previously stated, here with us this evening is Mr. Joseph Moges, Chief of the Division of Transportation Engineering, Mr. Juan Berrios, Field Supervisor, and Mr. Daniel Hagos Kamara, Construction Representative. They will be available after the testimony portion of this hearing to answer any questions regarding the construction aspects of this project. And now I turn the meeting back over to Mr. Paylor.

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Michael Paylor Speaking ~

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Thank you, Mr. Gonzales. We will now hear testimony from those in attendance who wish to testify. If you have not pre-registered to testify but decide you would like to, please click the "React" icon in the bottom menu bar, then click "Raise Hand" to raise your hand. Alternatively, if you joined the meeting by phone, you may dial star-nine (*9) on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Once you are invited to speak, please unmute yourself by clicking on the microphone icon at the bottom-left of your screen or by pressing (*6) on your telephone keypad. **Please clearly provide your name and address for the record prior to beginning your**

testimony. In addition, you may submit your full testimony in writing. These submissions will be fully considered along with the oral testimony heard here today.

Please reserve all questions for the question-and-answer session following the testimony portion of this hearing. We will begin with those who have signed up in advance to testify at this evening's hearing. Again, please be sure to announce your name and property address before providing your testimony.

[testimony]

That concludes the speakers who have expressed an interest in speaking tonight. Is there anyone else who did not sign up to testify who now wishes to speak? Please click the “React” icon and then “Raise Hand” to raise your hand or dial *9 on your telephone keypad. Once invited, you may unmute yourself by clicking on the microphone icon at the bottom-left of your screen or dialing *6 on your telephone keypad.

[testimony]

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Thank you all for your testimony. Seeing that everyone who wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so, this concludes the oral testimony portion of this public hearing. We will now have a question-and-answer session. Please click the “React” icon and then “Raise Hand” to raise your hand or press *9 on your telephone

keypad if you wish to ask a question. You may also type your question into the chat box. If we run out of time before answering all questions, we will answer your questions via email in the days to come.

[Q&A Session]

Does anyone else have any questions?

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Seeing that all questions have been answered, we will now conclude this hearing. We will keep the Record open for **4 Weeks: Comments and Written Testimony are due by Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 5 p.m.** Additional written testimony and comments may be submitted by e-mail and must be received or postmarked by the close of this hearing record. Submissions should be sent via:

- the online comment form; a link and QR code are provided on your screen; or
- via email to Lori Main at Lori.Main@montgomerycountymd.gov

Lori's contact information and the link and QR code to the comment form on the Sidewalk Program's website are also posted on your screen. Thank you for joining us this evening. This public hearing is now concluded.