

July 20, 2020

Dear County Executive Marc Elrich

On behalf of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board we urge you to consider the following advice to recommend that the Planning Board:

- **Approve the Dale Drive Pedestrian Facility which proposes the construction of a multi-use path along Dale Drive between Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road in Silver Spring.**

The proposed path is widely supported by the surrounding community who have been advocating for a safe pedestrian connection between Georgia Ave and Colesville Road for over two decades. Further, the pedestrian and bike improvements proposed for Dale Drive are key to the long-term success of the Montgomery Hills commercial area, as discussed in the recently approved Forest Glen and Montgomery Hills Sector Plan.

The Dale Drive Pedestrian Facility plan is at the 35% design stage, and the County Council has voted funding for completion of the project.

Current conditions along Dale Drive are untenable for pedestrians and bikers, and to be honest, even vehicles. The lack of a sidewalk or path on Dale Drive makes it dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel on Dale Drive. As a result, no one feels safe enough to walk and people are forced to drive even short distances. The community has long sought safety improvements, and while the traffic calming measures installed by MC DOT have somewhat helped to slow vehicles on Dale it still feels unsafe to walk and bike. The proposed multi-use path will facilitate safe access to local businesses in Montgomery Hills and easier access to the nearby Purple and Red Line Metro Stations. Further, Dale Drive is a major bus route for public and private schools and a critical connector for neighborhood residents to nearby Sligo Creek Park. The proposed multi-use path will make it safer for parents and kids to access both the park and the bus stops.

The multi-use path is consistent with the Montgomery County **Bicycle Master Plan** and the Planning Department's **Capital Improvements Program Priorities – Transportation and School Facilities**. A multi-use path on Dale Drive also supports the County's **Vision Zero** plans and policy. Finally, the multi-use plan, by facilitating more walking and bike use and less driving is consistent with the County's plan to reduce greenhouse emissions associated with climate change.

Thank you in advance for giving the green light for completion of the design and the future installation of this long-awaited and quality-of-life enhancing project that will also advance the County's plans and goals.

Thank you for consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely, on behalf of the SSCAB,

Matt Losak
Chair

Michelle Desiderio Foster
Chair Vice-Chair

Secretary

Lysette House
Parliamentarian

cc: Casey Anderson, Chair, Planning Board
[rest of commissioners]
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