

The Montgomery County, Department of Transportation (MCDOT) appreciate all who commented, and expressed interest and concerns on the proposed traffic calming plan along Plyers Mill Road. MCDOT has reviewed all comments and concerns which were posted on the web and also ones received directly via emails. MCDOT has been gathering comments and suggestions posted on the web.

In the comment section different views were expressed. Some of the comments were in support of the plan and some were in objection to the plan. For those who commented on the improvement plan we say thank you, for your involvement to make Plyers Mill Road safer for pedestrians and other users of the roadway. Some expressed opposition to the plan and we will address the major concerns below:

First why and how did we get here?

MCDOT over the years has received multiple requests from residents and Civic Associations concerning speeding, lack of pedestrian crossings, and overall traffic operations and safety along Plyers Mill Road. In response to these concerns MCDOT conducted a traffic operations and safety review of Plyers Mill Road from the Town of Kensington to Georgia Avenue and based on the findings proposed a traffic calming plan to mitigate these concerns.

Through-out the development of the traffic calming plan MCDOT made a concerted effort to solicit the involvement of civic associations and residents of the community. After a draft plan was developed MCDOT contacted representatives of the McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association, the Kensington Heights Civic Association, and a group of residents along Plyers Mill Road who had previously had worked with us to address traffic issues along the roadway. MCDOT developed plans with these representatives and incorporated their input to come up with the current plan which was presented at the community meeting on March 21, 2014. The date and time of the meeting was announced well in advance of the meeting date by distributing flyers to around 140 homes located along Plyers Mill Road, and posting it on listserv and civic associations' news letters. This meeting and the posting of the traffic calming plan on the Montgomery County Website were efforts to solicit input from the community before the plan is finalized.

Now let's address the major concerns expressed by some of those who are opposing the proposed plan.

1. Snow plows and emergency vehicles will be negatively impacted by the traffic calming features.
 - ❖ We understand concerns about the effect the traffic calming features will have on snow plow and emergency vehicle operations. However, MCDOT has installed traffic calming features similar to the ones proposed for Plyers Mill Road on many other streets and we have not had problems with these installations. MCDOT worked with our Division of Highway Services, Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue to ensure the traffic calming plan for Plyers Mill Road is designed to accommodate all kinds of roadway users including, snow plows, emergency vehicles, bicycles, school buses, pedestrians, and delivery vehicles. Also, to increase visibility, object markers and reflectors will be installed to delineate the curb extensions and the pedestrian refuge islands.
2. It unsafely narrows the travel lanes.
 - ❖ The proposed plan will provide a uniform 11 foot wide travel lane each direction

through-out the length of the project, which can accommodate all kinds of vehicles, including buses and large trucks. This dimension is consistent with the county's Context Sensitive Road Design Guidelines for suburban arterial roadways such as Plyers Mill Road.

3. It will be hard to safely drive in and out of driveways.
 - ❖ We will follow standard design guidelines to make sure that safe access to all driveways is maintained.
4. There will be a loss of on-street parking spaces.
 - ❖ MCDOT conducted multiple reviews of the on-street parking demand along Plyers Mill Road which showed many open spaces even during nighttime and weekends. Survey conducted during night time showed there are currently approximately 312 on street parking spaces available with the utilization rate of 18%. The project will reduce the available on street parking spaces by 40 spaces which will raise the utilization rate by 4% to 22%.
5. Prefer other speed control measures such as speed humps or stop signs.
 - ❖ The installation of an effective and appropriate traffic calming feature depends on many factors including the master plan classification of the roadway, type and extent of the problem, speed, volume and characteristics of the road. This section of Plyers Mill Road is an arterial roadway and Executive Regulation 32-08 does not allow the installation of speed humps on arterial roadway. To get detailed information about the speed hump program please go to:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Traffic/Resources/Files/PDF/speedhumpreg.pdf>

MCDOT uses the warrants that are established in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a nationally accepted document governing the placement of traffic controls in the public right-of-way, to determine the appropriateness of All-way stop control installations. One common misconception about stop signs is that they are used for speed control or to arbitrarily interrupt through-traffic. In fact, they are used to assign right-of-way to one traffic flow over another. When a multi-way stop sign is used at an intersection where it is not warranted, violation rates tend to be extremely high, thus reducing safety rather than improving it. We did evaluate the intersection of Plyers Mill Road and Brunswick Avenue but the intersection did not meet the warrant for a four-way stop control.

6. The traffic calming features will be an eyesore.
 - MCDOT will make every effort to make the traffic calming features planned to be installed along Plyers Mill Road aesthetically pleasing.

In conclusion MCDOT is committed to make every effort to not negatively impact or inconvenience any resident while making traffic operations and safety improvements. However, the installation of traffic calming features sometimes becomes necessary to provide safe and efficient traffic operations for the community at large. The proposed traffic calming features along Plyers Mill Road are strategically placed at regular intervals to have an optimal traffic calming effect. A great effort was made not to negatively impact residents, however sometimes it is unavoidable. We understand some of your residences may be located very close to one of these features. We will consider your concern when we are finalizing the plan and see if there is anything we can do to mitigate impacts without reducing the traffic calming effects of the overall plan.

We have started modifying the plan and as soon as it is complete we will post the final plan.
Thank you, for your interest in traffic operations and safety

Sincerely,

Seifu Kerse
Traffic Engineering Studies Section
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