

Introduction

Resolution: _____
 Introduced: _____
 Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Floreen, Andrews, Ervin, Leventhal and Trachtenberg

Subject: Policy regarding the use of brick pavers in the public right-of-way

Background

1. The Commission on People with Disabilities has recommended that brick pavers no longer be installed on paths of travel in the design of sidewalks, streets and facilities in Montgomery County. The Commission notes that wheelchair users and others with limited mobility find brick-paver surfaces to be extremely difficult to travel over and can increase injuries due to falls. The Commission states that these pavements create barriers for people with mobility and visual disabilities.
2. The County Department of Transportation has reported that brick-paver surfaces are more difficult and costly to maintain than concrete or asphalt surfaces.
3. In its July 22, 2008 discussion regarding a supplemental appropriation for the Silver Spring Transit Center project, the Council indicated that it did not support the installation of brick pavers for the walking surfaces of the center. The Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee reviewed this matter on September 29, 2008 and received remarks and correspondence from the Commission on People with Disabilities and the Department of Transportation opposing the installation of brick pavers in walkways. The Planning Board supports the continued installation of brick pavers in walkways.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County approves the following resolution:

Brick pavers may continue to be used in public rights of way as edge treatments and decorative elements, but they must no longer be installed in the paths of travel in the public right of way in Montgomery County, unless they are included in a County capital improvement for which construction funds have been appropriated prior to February 24, 2009, or they are included in a requirement for a subdivision or site plan approved prior to February 24, 2009.

Where brick pavers are installed in the paths of travel, the gap between the pavers must not exceed 1/4", the depth of the crack between them must be between 1/16" and 1/8", and they must be set diagonally to the primary direction of travel.

This is a correct copy of Council action.