



WHEATON VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

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November 16, 2018

The Honorable Hans Riemer
Montgomery County Council President
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Riemer,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. (WVRS) I am writing to express our support for the Montgomery County Council's continued attention to pedestrian safety and Vision Zero in the Mid-County region. We offer the following remarks for consideration by the Council as you explore further efforts to improve pedestrian safety:

Utilize emergency medical services (EMS) data to improve crash injury surveillance

Improving pedestrian safety requires not only a reduction in crash fatalities, but also a reduction in serious and minor injuries. Utilization of EMS data by Vision Zero partners will help inform decisions regarding engineering, education, enforcement, and EMS. We encourage CountySTAT to collaborate with the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service, the Maryland Institute for EMS Systems, and the Maryland Trauma Registry to improve collection of pedestrian injury data.

Convert Georgia Avenue into a County-maintained roadway

Development of the Mid-County region requires coordination between agencies and stakeholders involved in master planning, service delivery, and a complex array of daily activities along the Georgia Avenue corridor. Administering Georgia Avenue as a County-maintained road will ensure prompt attention to public health and safety concerns. We urge the Council to explore this option further.

Sincerely,

Gamunu "Gam" Wijetunge
President, WVRS
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CC: Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Fire-Rescue Chief Scott Goldstein
Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board