



Testimony of Diane Cameron
On Thrive Montgomery 2050 – Planning Board Draft
June 29, 2021

Good evening, my name is Diane Cameron and I'm with the TAME Coalition - Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended.

We urge your strong support for this part of the Thrive Transportation policy:

"Stop planning or constructing new highways or major road widenings for cars."¹

Adoption of this No New Highways policy frees up resources needed to build and maintain a world-class transit system, including for the Upcounty: rail; bus systems; and streets safe for walkers and cyclists.

We urge your support for related item "T-2" in the Thrive "Actions document"²:

“Remove master-planned but unbuilt highways and road widenings...”

TAME requests that proposed M-83 highway be explicitly listed as a planned-but-unbuilt highway to be removed from all of the master plans: the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways, and four local plans.

Our many allies, including Sierra Club; Coalition for Smarter Growth; Audubon Naturalist Society; Action Committee for Transit; and the CAP Coalition, have joined us in calling for proposed M-83 highway to be removed from all the master plans.

It's now up to this Council to remove M-83 from the Master Plans -- freeing up needed resources for transit and safe streets.

As long as you allow M-83 to remain in the Master Plans, it can be revived and built at any time.

If built, M-83 would expose hundreds of families to increases in: heat emergencies, risks of lung and heart disease, and asthma. You must remove M83 from all of the master plans, in order to prevent this health disaster and climate injustice.

¹ "[Thrive 2050 Planning Board Draft](#) " (page 80, April, 2021).

² <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Actions-document-final-for-April-8th.pdf>