



## RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



WRITTEN STATEMENT ON  
BILL 24-22 STREETS AND ROADS  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

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Rustic roads are historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County. The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee is made up of seven volunteer county residents who work extremely hard to support this program. Our statutory duty is to advise the County Council, the County Executive, and the Planning Board on matters concerning the rustic roads.

Bill 24-22, ZTA 22-10, and SRA 22-01 will make changes to three chapters of the County Code to implement the Complete Streets Design Guide. Our comments are regarding Bill 24-22, Streets and Roads, specifically Chapter 49 and the Rustic Roads Program.

We have five recommendations:

1. In Section 49-32 Design Standards, regarding maximum target speeds, we recommend adding Rustic and Exceptional Rustic Roads to the section on Country Roads with the same maximum target speeds of 20-35 mph.

Explanation

*Giving Montgomery County Department of Transportation this option can help slow speeds on rustic roads as well as other roads, making our roads safer.*

2. In Section 49-78 Rustic Road Classification and Reclassification, criterium 5, we ask that the word "accident" be replaced with the word "crash." The result would read, "the history of vehicle and pedestrian crashes on the road in its current configuration does not suggest unsafe conditions."

Explanation

*This is consistent with the Council's Vision Zero policy and with current transportation planning.*

3. In Section 49-80, Rustic Roads Advisory Committee, we ask that the committee membership be increased from seven (7) to nine (9).

Explanation

*This would greatly help to reduce the extremely large number of volunteer hours members are currently putting in to keep up with the committee's responsibilities. In doing so, we hope to broaden representation on the committee in accordance with the Council's Racial Equity and Social Justice efforts. We recommend that these members be considered "at-large," and*

*language regarding the membership qualifications be stated as “representing the geographical, social, economic, recreational and cultural concerns of the residents of the County.”*

4. Also in Section 49-80, we request that the words in (a)(1) “earning 50 percent or more of their income from farming” be deleted from the section.

*Explanation*

*The committee does not have financial disclosure requirements for membership, and this provision discourages membership from a broad range of farmers. The current language calling for farmers to be owner-operators of commercial farmland is sufficient.*

5. In Section 49-80, in (f) Advocacy, we ask that the word "Commission" be replaced with "Committee" to correctly reflect the name, Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.”

*Explanation*

*This is a technical correction.*

Thank you for providing the committee the opportunity to present our views.

You may reach the Committee through our staff coordinator, Darcy Buckley, at [Darcy.Buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Darcy.Buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**Committee Members:**

Laura Van Etten, Chair

N. Anne Davies, Barbara Hoover, Charles Mess,  
Kamran Sadeghi, Dan Seamans, Robert Wilbur

