

Sept 27, 2022

Council President Albornoz and Councilmembers Glass, Friedson, Hucker, Jawando, Katz, Navarro, Rice and Riemer
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: Testimony on Bill 24-22, ZTA 22-10, SRA 22-01

Dear President Albornoz and Councilmembers,

I am a nearly lifelong resident of Montgomery County, and I represented the Planning Board on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee from 2005-2021. I am writing as an individual who thinks we have an amazing County, but I have also witnessed some of our sausage being made.

I am writing in support of amending County Code Chapters 49, 50 and 59 to conform to the Complete Streets Design Guides you approved in 2021. I have the following comments:

- As written, Chapter 49, Streets and Roads, does not reflect the Complete Streets chapter on Green Streets. In order for this chapter to be implemented, I believe it must be reflected in Chapter 49, and thus I recommend that it be added.
- In addition, the Complete Streets Design Guide has a requirement for street trees that is not incorporated into Chapter 49. Currently, street trees are treated as if they were a liability, when they are a critical feature for pedestrians and cyclists, especially. Chapter 49 must be amended to reflect this requirement, and the MCDOT designs must be promptly updated to reflect the Complete Streets Design Guide cross sections.
- For Rustic Roads, I support the recommendations made by the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee, including:
 - Technical language updates and corrections regarding changing “accidents” to “crash” and “commission” to “committee”
 - Maximum target speeds for Rustic and Exceptional Rustic roads to match those of Country roads—i.e., 20-35 mph maximum target speeds
 - Expanding the committee from 7 to 9 members, and to have the 2 new members be at-large members as described by the RRAC to encourage representation from Rustic Roads users and residents who don’t currently have a voice on the committee. Representatives from churches, historical societies, cycling groups, young farmers and others could create room for people of color who represent a group or congregation, people who cannot afford to buy an Upcounty property but might be visitors and advocates of the Rustic Roads and Agricultural Reserve, etc.
 - Remove the 50% income requirement for farmers. At one point, the County Attorney required the RRAC to exclude farmer members proposed by the Office of Agriculture because they had an off-farm or retirement income that exceeded the 50% threshold.

If you or staff has questions regarding my comments, I would be pleased to provide more information. I hope to attend worksessions.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on these items, and for your continued support for the astonishing and glorious parts of our County, including our irreplaceable Rustic Roads and Agricultural Reserve.

Leslie Saville