



Seneca Creek  
Watershed Partners

**January 16, 2023**

**To:** The Montgomery County Council

**Re: ZTA 22-12, Overlay Zones - Clarksburg East & West Environmental Overlay - Exemptions**

Dear Council President Glass and County Councilmembers,

**We concur with the position articulated by the Friends of Ten Mile Creek that “no action be taken on ZTA 22-12 at this time”. We support bikeways so long as they are not exempted from impervious limits.** There are options for pervious bike lanes which when kept narrow and minimizing impact during construction, provide valuable access to natural areas without causing the harm that accompanies impervious surfaces.

**ZTA 22-12 promotes a policy change that would weaken the impervious exemptions to include all master-planned bikeways regardless of the funding mechanism.**

Knowing that additional impervious surfaces, whether publicly or privately funded, will be harmful to the watershed, we ask that the County Council protect the increasingly imperiled Ten Mile Creek from not just this change but others which would increase impervious surfaces near Ten Mile Creek.

Ten Mile Creek is a unique high-quality stream flowing into Little Seneca Reservoir, our region’s back-up drinking water supply. In the past it has been rated among the very best streams in Montgomery County in terms of water quality and biological condition.

**The science of watershed protection does not support exemptions from impervious surface limitations.**

Therefore, Seneca Creek Stormwater Partners joins other watershed protection groups and concerned citizens in asking the County Council to **reject** the proposed zoning change, ZTA 22-12.

Furthermore, to minimize harm to Ten Mile Creek, we strongly recommend the elimination of all road and bikeway impervious surface exemptions, regardless of whether they are publicly funded.

Sincerely,

Merikay Smith, President  
Seneca Creek Watershed Partners  
[Senecacreekwp.org](http://Senecacreekwp.org)