

Montgomery County Council
Master Plan of Highways and Transitways Technical Update 2025
Public Hearing, July 8, 2025

My name is Brian Higgins. I am speaking as an individual. I live on the Dayspring Farm; and am a salaried employee there, as well. As a Caretaker, I tend to the land in the various capacities of a person who nurtures the forests and fields I was hired to care for. I love the work that I do.

I am here today to express my grievances over the proposed M83 Highway. If M83 were built, it would destroy old growth forest along the border of the property, it would create an increase in noise, and release of compounds that trigger asthma, and would contribute to the urban heat islands that already exist within the county.

As a man of faith, very rarely are moral and ethical considerations given to such issues as the building of a highway. It appears the “bottom line” is always in the forefront of the decisions for more development. Can we dare to think the ethical consequences of constant building and expanding, digging and laying asphalt, and paving over forested areas, to perceive the bigger picture?

Of the five (5) tipping points scientists monitor in terms of the progression of climate change, it has been determined that two are now irreversible and the other 3 are moving more rapidly than predicted.

The ethics for me are clear. Are we thinking about the future of our planet? Are we including the future well-being of our children and grandchildren in our development designs? Can we at least let go of what is non-essential — which is the building of this proposed M83 highway? Can we allow what precious fragments of forests and fields, creeks and aquifers, still left in Montgomery County, have an opportunity to exist?

Can you, as leaders in our community, rest in the integrity that the right decisions for a healthy and viable planet were made? And those whom we love, will express their gratitude and thanks for the good decisions and choices you make now.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask that you remove M83 highway from the document before you: the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways.

Brian Higgins
11201 Neelsville Church Rd
Germantown, Md 20876