

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

Dear County Council,

My name is Jean Brown and I am speaking on behalf of Dayspring Church asking you to remove the proposed M83 highway from Montgomery County's Master Plans. The time is now to act with courage and creativity and a commitment to the long term health of our County. Dayspring Church, stewards 200 + acres for the Church of the Saviour, the seven churches who own the land.

Along with countless others we have come to know this Open Space as Sacred Space, a place where Spirit can break through into our busy demanding lives, where we can be quiet long enough to remember truths deeper than the present challenges we find ourselves navigating.

It was over 15 years ago Dayspring brought me to the County and has kept me here. I had read about those to whom practicing their faith meant living a life in service to the communities in which we live. Their beliefs led them to work on behalf of inner city ministries. The depth of their activism and its demands led them to understand the importance of retreat if they were to be able to sustain their work over time.

Places of retreat and stretches of natural land are becoming fewer and farther between. Dayspring is more than a place for overworked humans to rest, it is home to a complex web of life, spanning the smallest microbial networks in the ground beneath our feet to the tallest of trees providing the air we breath, holding the ground from washing away and cooling our air with their shade.

Dayspring and the surrounding natural areas are an irreplaceable asset to our Seneca Creek watershed. If building M83 were allowed to proceed, the project would wipe out the massive interior forest.

The discernment before us today is about the wider community and what's needed for health of all of us that live along the alignment.

My father built roads for a living and he also taught me the names of trees. He is a civil engineer, a practical man. He likes to tell me one of the most important principles in life is balance along with not being afraid to take a stand. It's time to take a stand. We need roads to drive on AND undeveloped areas so that we have places to retreat from the frenzy of this world, to be renewed in ways that enable us to return to the work we are called to do. Dayspring forests, creeks and meadows help provide the balance our guests need. I am here today because I feel a sense of urgency. The time is now. I urge you to remove the proposed M83 Highway from the Master Plan.

Sincerely,  
Jean E. Brown  
Dayspring Church  
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