

Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

- 2025 Technical Update -

July 8, 2025 Council Public Hearing

Presented by Francoise Andre

- board member of [Seneca Creek Watershed Partners Association](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS:

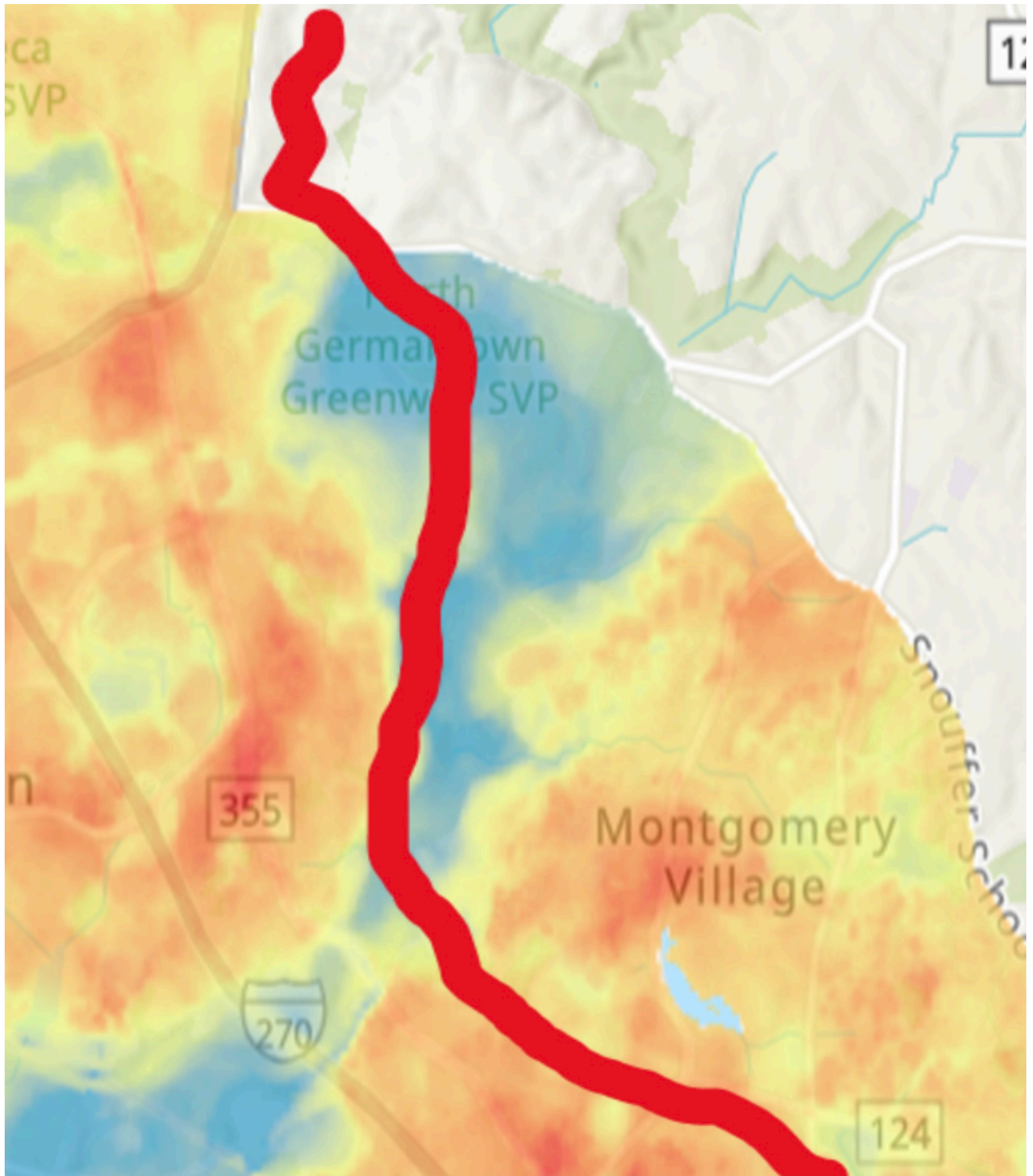
The Montgomery County Planning Dept recently concluded that the northern section of M-83 *"would have a potentially calamitous impact", including on:*

- Existing Wetlands, Forests, Stream crossings, Floodplains and their Biodiversity
- Climate resilience
- Community health, property values, and outdoor experience
- Habitat fragmentation
- Noise, light and air pollution, including at EPA recognized hotspots in Germantown, Montgomery Village and Gaithersburg

MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE CLIMATE IMPACT:

M-83 would exacerbate the climate emergency by putting more cars on the road, removing forests, and creating new heat islands of asphalt and pavement.

In August 2022, Montgomery County conducted a heat mapping campaign to identify urban heat islands and how it affects communities. In a heat map, the blue color means cool, and the red color means hot. The Montgomery County Heat Mapping shows distinct blue, and therefore cool, areas corresponding to the forested areas of the Seneca stream valleys and parks, all surrounded by red, and therefore hot, non-forested urban areas. M-83 would destroy and degrade these cool forests and therefore significantly heat up our neighborhoods.



CONCLUSION:

We are urging you to approve the Planning Board's recommendation to remove the proposed 5-mile M-83 northern section from the master plan!