

Testimony of Joseph Horgan, of --- Edgewood Rd, Kensington, in support of the removal of Mid-County Highway Extended M-83 (M83) from the Master Plan of Highways & Transitways

I am Joseph Horgan, a resident of the Kensington zipcode. I drink water and breathe air, and I vote.

It's been almost two decades since former Vice President Al Gore informed us of the inconvenient truth that, if we want to have a livable planet, we need to wean our economy and our society from our addiction to fossil fuels. One way we wean ourselves from our addiction is by removing all planned fossil fuel infrastructures -like highways- from our planning. We need to plan to make it inconvenient to drive personal vehicles, whilst making it safe and convenient to take mass transit.

If you care about a livable planet, you must permanently remove the proposed M83 from all Montgomery County Master Plans, including the Master Plan of Highways & Transitways whilst investing in Bus Rapid Transit in dedicated lanes on MD 355 into Clarksburg, and fostering greater stewardship of our forests and streams.

We've known for quite some time now that new or expanded highways induce traffic demand. In other words instead of reducing traffic, building new highways increases demand for car travel. Rather than inducing demand, our County and its leaders need to *reduce* demand by first removing M83 from all Montgomery County Master Plans, including the Master Plan of Highways & Transitways, then by dedicating highway and roadway lanes for mass transit and bicycles only.

Further, because of our need to mitigate the climate disaster's worst effects, our county's planning needs to stop enabling the destruction of our clean drinking water supplies and irreplaceable forests (also known as carbon sinks) by allowing projects like the proposed M83 highway to remain in the master plans.

Our future cannot be more pavement for new roads, and must use our existing road space to move more people efficiently and sustainably. So, I ask you to take action for our climate and communities, and support the people-centric transportation shift towards mass transit and away from destructive highways.

This issue is important to me because I want to breathe clean air and drink clean water. And I vote on issues important to me. Your job is simple: support transit alternatives, and eliminate M83 from all Master Plans, including the Master Plan of Highways & Transitways.

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