

Good evening members of the Montgomery County planning board,

My name is Laura Markus. I live at ----- Wayfarer Road Germantown, Md 20876. My husband & I purchased our home in 1987, and soon after we learned that the alignment for proposed M-83 changed, making the curb less than 45 feet from the corner of our garage.

Watkins Meadows does not have a Homeowners Association, therefore our voices needed to be heard. As an active Realtor in the Community, I collected signature from 89% of our homeowners asking for a better solution. I've attended and testified at almost every hearing, going back to April of 1988. Since that time the Watkins Meadows homeowners have been working with Dayspring Church, Tame Coalition, members of Md Park & Planning, Project managers from MNCPPC Property acquisition, Dept. of Public Works, & others. Millions & Millions of taxpayers' dollars have been spent on Environmental studies, which the Army Corps of Engineers expressed major environmental concerns, & many permits- yet there is No clear answer that this road is really going to do much to alleviate the growing gridlock we face every day.

Back in October 2017 Montgomery County Council VP Hans Reimer shared the Midcounty Corridor study supplemental report from Feb 2017. DOT studied how 4 possible alternatives would perform in 2040, using same background assumptions about development and infrastructure. They are:

- \* No build – No improvements on 355 or M83
- \* Scenario 1- widen 355, add service lanes, improving intersections, & build Bus Rapid Transit on 355.
- \*Scenario 2- Build 2 lane reversible parkway on the M-83 route & BRT on 355
- \*Scenario 3 – Building a 4-lane highway along the M83 right of way, with no improvement to 355

VP Hans Riemer felt Scenario 1 – widening 355, improving intersections & building BRT should be the Councils highest priority, in addition to I-270 and the Corridor Cities Transitway. Compared to with Scenario 3 (M83) , scenario 1 allows auto travel times at rush hour that are only 2-3 minutes more, while

allowing 22% of commuters to take transit & producing 34 million fewer vehicle miles per year.

This Midcounty Corridor study was done pre-Covid and many employers are allowing their employees to work remotely, which alleviates some of the congestion.

In a letter from Mont Co Dept of Transportation Director Christopher Conklin dated 5/15/2021, he stated that Montgomery County is recommending removal of Midcounty Extended from Visualize 2045 because the project is no longer the preferred recommendation to serve the Northwest Mont. Co. transportation needs, & not included in the County's CIP.

There are so many alternatives to negatively impacting well established neighborhoods, over 6 miles of forests, impacting 14 wetlands, 6 streams and natural flood plains. There's 60 acres of MOCO Agricultural Reserve that will be destroyed. There is no funding for the 6 mile stretch of its right of way. Estimated cost is \$1.3 Billion, which doesn't include everything.

The County can't even keep up with the roads as it is. Many are partially resurfaced which only leads to deeper potholes.

As a fulltime Realtor of over 36 years, Watkins Meadows will see a decrease in property values and a even more importantly, a poorer quality of life.

We are requesting that the M-83 project be removed once and for all from the Germantown Master Plan, and to widen 355, improve intersections, built BRT, & consider widening I-270 or bringing Metro rail further North. Let's put this outdated plan to rest. It's way past it's time.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear our concerns and all your hard work,

Laura Markus – Watkins Meadows

----- Wayfarer Rd.

Germantown, Md 20876