

County Council Public Hearing
Master Plan of Highways & Transitways Technical Update 2025

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In the last 12 years, numerous government decisions have directed Montgomery County to expand transit service, and nine agencies have rejected building proposed M83 highway.

In 2013, the County Council unanimously passed the Bus Rapid Transit Functional Master Plan, pledging to move into a transit-first era.

Also in 2013: Montgomery Parks and Planning Departments recommended examining a transit alternative to M83 in the Midcounty Corridor Study.

In 2015 – the EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Maryland Department of the Environment ALL rejected a wetland permit for M83, as it violated environmental and racial equity requirements.

In 2017 - MCDOT issued a “Supplemental Report” for the Midcounty Corridor Study, finding BRT on 355 North performed better in key metrics than building M83.

Also that year - the County Council passed two key Resolutions:

Resolution 18-957 “Transportation Solutions for Northwest Montgomery County” to exclude M83 Highway from future master plans,

and -

The Emergency Climate Mobilization: Quoting an excerpt:

“...achieving 100% [Greenhouse Gas] reduction by 2035...will require a massive cultural shift ...and a willingness to consider and discuss measures currently regarded as politically charged.”

In 2022 and 2023 — The Region's Transportation Planning Board deleted M83 from the federal funding priorities list in response to a request from Montgomery County.

In the last eight months – the Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed M83 highway as part of its work on the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways, held three public hearings; four worksessions; and voted unanimously to recommend to the County Council removal of M83 highway's 5-mile "northern section" from the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways.

The County Executive and MCDOT have written both the Planning Board and the County Council requesting removal of proposed Midcounty Highway Extended from the MPOHT.

M-83 does *NOT* align with Montgomery County's values. It is time to remove M83 from all master plans, and to move forward with improving public transit for all.