

Michael Larkin
[REDACTED] Eastern Avenue, Apt. [REDACTED]
Silver Spring, MD 20910

July 8, 2025

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: M-83 - Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

Dear Council President Stewart, Vice President Jawando, and Councilmembers,

The update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways is an opportunity to continue moving forward with our County's efforts to build a transportation network with public transit, walking, and biking as the best ways to reach the destinations people want and need to go to. The update should remove the Mid-County Highway Extended (M-83) from the plan and prioritize sustainable transportation options.

Montgomery County has repeatedly committed itself to environmentally sustainable transportation. The Climate Action Plan states we have to reduce the use of cars and increase active transportation options and transit to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The Thrive 2050 general plan explains reducing vehicle miles traveled is imperative for achieving the County's climate goals. The continuing existence of the M-83 in the master plan is an obvious contradiction. Furthermore, the building of a new highway will not deliver relief from traffic but will increase congestion when more people choose to drive because a better option is lacking. More and improved transit such as a MARC train that runs in both directions every day and frequent buses in dedicated lanes will allow the County to achieve its transportation and land use goals.

This Council completed yet another arduous budget season in which decisions were made about how to spend our limited dollars. Although this plan is not appropriating money, keeping M-83 in the plan sends a message that the County is not prepared to commit the necessary resources to improving Ride On bus service and making our streets safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. The time has come to put an end to the idea that the M-83 is part of our County's future. It is clearly not, and the various other plans already passed by the Planning Board and the County Council logically point to the choice of removing this highway from the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Larkin