

Master Plan of Highways and Transitways (MPOHT) - 2025 Technical Update
Public Hearing, July 8, 2025

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I urge the County Council to adopt the MPOHT 2025 Technical Update, including the removal of the northern part of M-83, as recommended by the Montgomery Planning Board. (Unfortunately I can't attend the public hearing, because I have to take a family member to a medical appointment.)

M-83 was put on the map in the early to mid-1960s. The 1967 MPOHT (see <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/MPOHT-1967.pdf>) includes M-83 as a major highway between Norbeck and Hyattstown, via Derwood and Clarksburg. Some of the other unbuilt roads on the 1967 MPOHT are:

- an Outer Beltway (F-9).
- an Outer Outer Beltway (F-11, from west of Poolesville through Germantown to Triadelphia).
- a western freeway (F-12) from Bethesda northwest to the county line, with 8 interchanges (including 3 in Boyds).
- an eastern freeway (F-4) from downtown Silver Spring northeast to the county line, with 10 interchanges.
- two arterial ring roads around Olney (A-46 and A-48).
- an arterial ring road around Germantown (A-80).
- a major highway (M-57) on White Ground Road, and arterial highways on West Old Baltimore Road (A-7), Sugarloaf Mountain Road (A-4), and Martinsburg Road (A-4); all of these are now designated rustic or exceptional rustic roads.

But in 2025, we know that you can't build your way out of traffic congestion. We also know that road construction and maintenance are very expensive, especially in environmentally sensitive areas, and may require tax increases. When you know better, you do better!

We don't have an Outer Beltway or Outer Outer Beltway on the MPOHT anymore, and we shouldn't have M-83. The Planning Board was smart to vote to recommend removal of M-83 from the MPOHT. Now it's the County Council's turn. After 60 years, it's high time we removed the false promise of M-83 from the MPOHT and instead commit to effective, environmentally and fiscally responsible transportation solutions for all Montgomery County residents.