

Hello members of the council,

My name is Alex Campbell, and I am a resident and student at UMD.

The University Boulevard Corridor (UBC) Plan is a critical first step toward solving two of Montgomery County's most urgent crises—housing affordability and roadway safety.

On housing, the facts are stark. The median home price in our county is \$645,000, and the average rent is \$2,405 per month. Nearly a quarter of renters and 40% of homeowners spend more than half of their income just to keep a roof overhead. For essential workers—a first-year teacher earning about 50% of the county's median income, a new firefighter at 47%, a starting nurse just over 50%—housing costs swallow nearly everything they earn. That's not just a housing crisis—it's an education crisis, a public safety crisis, and a public health crisis. The county needs 31,000 new homes by 2030, and the UBC Plan would provide over 4,000, in walkable, transit-rich neighborhoods, with zoning changes to allow townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, and small multifamily buildings—homes far more affordable for the people who keep our county running.

On safety, the urgency is just as clear. University Boulevard is one of the most dangerous roads in the county. Between 2015 and 2024, crashes caused 51 severe injuries and killed 5. The UBC Plan would fix this by redesigning streets with Complete Streets principles: fewer and narrower travel lanes, protected crossings, curb extensions, high-visibility crosswalks, and a continuous network of safe sidewalks, bikeways, and trails—including a new trail across I-495 to close a dangerous gap. These improvements will slow vehicles, protect vulnerable road users, and save lives.

The choice before us is simple: keep the status quo of high housing costs and deadly streets, or embrace a plan that lets teachers, nurses, and firefighters live in the communities they serve—and get to work, school, and home safely.

I urge the council to move forward with this plan.

Thank you