

September 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern on the Montgomery County Planning Board,

I am unable to attend the in-person meeting and am submitting written testimony. My name is Dr. Jessica Hershenson and I have lived in Kemp Mill Estates for 14 years. The planning committee and council members continue to claim they understand the area that I live in and yet they continue to proceed with a plan that on both paper and soon to be reality is counter to the needs of the local community. You do not seem to understand that we live in a suburban area and insist on transforming it into a small pedestrian city.

Let me explain how my day works to illustrate my point. Each morning, I leave my house and drive down Arcola making a right using the dedicated turn lane onto University. I drive down Sligo, making a right Dennis (because Forest Glen is too backed up), turning left onto Georgia and arrive at Linden Lane to drop my daughter off (sometimes I cut through Inwood and those neighborhoods as well to avoid the back up now on Sligo). This commute should take less than 15 minutes without traffic. This past Labor Day, it took me 9 minutes. I then take the same route home. With the introduction of our useless bike/bus lanes my commute has increased to on average 22-25 minutes each way. One day there was an accident on the single lane Arcola. No one moved between University and Kemp Mill Road for an hour. An accident over the summer on the now two lane road of University backed us up hours. Why do I drive this route every day? There are no county AM school buses to private schools. I have no option but to drive. Furthermore, I will NEVER use public transportation. It does not take me anywhere I need to go in a timely manner. I live $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the nearest uncovered bus stop. I have a large family (we are 2 adults and 5 children). I shop at stores that can accommodate both my dietary needs and bulk products (Costco). I am like many others in this community. If you have ever stopped to join Kemp Mill's daily exodus and entry at 745 AM and 345-415 PM, you will see a caravan of passenger and minivans following the exact same routes.

Stop forcing your ideals on us and start looking at the reality. We need reasonable speed limits that allow the flow of traffic (which will not stop regardless of how many bus lanes you make), we need multiple wide lanes and for those who do commute via public transportation, sheltered bus stops. We are a suburb and follow suburban rules. I do not want to live in a city. I have chosen not to live in a city. You do every one of us who live in the neighborhoods you insist on changing a disservice by continuing down a dead end road and ruining our traffic patterns.

I recognize it is hard to turn back on a plan you felt had merit but it does not. You have wasted not only your careers but you continue to waste my time having to persuade you

time and again that your plan has no good future. Should you insist on proceeding, I hope you are forced to move to my neighborhood and will experience the damage you have caused.

Jessica Hershenson, MD