



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Christopher R. Conklin
Director

April 4, 2023

**Joann Leleck Elementary School
Oakview Community Sidewalk Proposal – REVISED**

Dear Property Owner(s):

This letter is to notify you that Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Safe Routes to Schools Program (SRTS) has revised the sidewalk proposal along Stateside Drive from **Avenel Road** to **Stateside Court** to mitigate the anticipated tree impacts. MCDOT reevaluated the sidewalk alignments and tree locations to identify opportunities to minimize impacts to existing trees while still accomplishing the goal of providing safety and accessibility enhancements for school children walking along Stateside Drive.

The original proposal presented at the March 8 public hearing included the tree report, which disclosed that 29 trees within County rights of way may be removed for the sidewalk installation during construction. This estimate assumed a worst-case scenario of potential tree impacts resulting from the installation of a five-foot wide concrete sidewalk, with a three-foot wide grass buffer between the curb and sidewalk. Seven impacted trees were noted as being in poor health or previously marked for removal, leaving 22 trees to be impacted directly by construction activities. Several residents have noted concerns regarding impacts to trees, specifically mature trees along Stateside Drive.

Based on oral and written testimony received during and after the March 8 public hearing, the original proposal has been reevaluated. A revised tree report is enclosed with this letter for reference. The revised tree report makes recommendations for construction means and methods, sidewalk materials, and sidewalk realignment to minimize impacts to trees' critical root zones that would potentially compromise their health and stability. Less invasive excavation techniques, meandering sidewalk alignments, and reducing sidewalk widths at critical locations are anticipated to reduce the total number of trees impacted by the construction from 22 trees to seven trees.

The seven trees that may be impacted by the proposed sidewalk may further be reduced to three impacted trees by implementing traffic calming features (i.e., curb extensions) at select locations along Stateside Drive. These curb extensions provide pinch points along the roadway where parking restrictions will be required and the reduced pavement width helps induce slower vehicular travel speeds. These deterrents to high vehicle speeds and on-street parking are anticipated to address other noted concerns related to vehicular speeds and parking utilization. Incorporating curb extensions reduces the total number of impacted trees to three, of which only one (1) is a mature tree with a diameter of thirty-three (33) inches.

Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations

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A summary of the tree impacts is provided in Table 1 below, which compares the original proposal to the alternate conditions detailed above. Enclosed are concept plans illustrating each of the proposed conditions with the associated tree impacts.

The three (3) trees that will be impacted under option three (3) include a 3-inch swamp white oak in front of 1403 Stateside Drive, and a 2.5-inch bur oak and 33-inch pin oak alongside 9408 Avenel Road.

Table 1. Tree Impacts Comparison

Sidewalk Proposal	Total Trees to be Removed	Impacted by Construction	Impacted by Construction (> 20 in. diameter)	Previously Marked for Removal or Poor Condition
Original Proposal – 5 ft sidewalk with 3 ft grass buffer	29	22	7	7
Option 2 – Revised Proposal for Tree Report Recommendations	10	7	5	3*
Option 3 – Tree Report Recommendations + Curb Extensions	6	3	1	3*

*Trees in poor condition to remain. 1 tree marked for removal in the original assessment has been removed.

Option 3 is the revised proposal for Tree Report recommendations, plus the inclusion of curb extensions. This letter and enclosures present the revised project details, and **the Hearing Record period will be extended until April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. to obtain additional resident testimony and feedback.** Please note, written testimony carries the same weight as oral testimony provided at the original hearing. All written testimony and comments must be received by the close of the **Hearing Record on April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Thank you for your consideration of the enclosed proposal as revised. We look forward to receipt of your written testimony. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the SRTS Project Manager at SidewalkSRTS-LeleckES@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Enclosures

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