



Department of Permitting Services, Division of Land Development
2425 Reddie Drive, 7th Floor, Wheaton MD 20902
Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Engineering
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

DATE: 11-7-2023	POLICY: Capital Crescent Trail Access within the Georgetown Branch
<p>1. <u>SCOPE</u></p> <p>This administrative policy shall apply to all documents that must be approved and executed by the Director of DPS.</p> <p>2. <u>PURPOSE</u></p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to establish the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) as the primary authorities that will authorize access to the Capital Crescent Trail for the purpose of new development, re-development, or other connection(s).</p> <p>3. <u>POLICY/PROCEDURES</u></p> <p>The Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) is a shared use path located in Montgomery County between Bethesda and Silver Spring. The trail, situated along the Georgetown Branch public right-of-way (ROW), traverses approximately 6.7 miles within Montgomery County.</p> <p>Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) owns the Georgetown Branch right-of-way and has franchised use of a portion of the right-of-way to the Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) for the Purple Line, a 16.2-mile light-rail line extending from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince Georges County.</p> <p>Once complete, MCDOT is responsible for the maintenance of the CCT. Public access to the CCT may be provided from several locations along the right-of-way. Access to the CCT for the purpose of new development, re-development or other connection purposes can only occur once the CCT reopens after completion of Purple Line construction activities. The Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) handles all permitting related to the ROW.</p> <p>For access to the trail from single family residential properties, a permit to install a fence with a gate feature may be allowed pending DPS plan approval. The gate must swing into the private property and not into the ROW. The permit evaluation will further ensure there is no negative impact on public facilities and the ROW. Privately constructed improvements in the ROW are prohibited.</p> <p>For multi-family and/or commercial development, DPS, in coordination with MCDOT, may consider independent access point(s). The access point(s) must be achieved with minimal impact to existing structures, drainage infrastructure, and other features in the ROW. The proposed design of such access point(s) will be reviewed for compliance during the permitting process.</p> <p>The applicant should address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. No work can occur within the ROW nor the trail without a valid permit.B. Paved trail connections constructed within the Georgetown Branch ROW shall be for public access to townhome, apartment, multi-unit development, commercial uses, and any Master Planned points of entry. Shared access serving multiple lots to the trail is highly encouraged. No connections are allowed on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) side of the ROW.	

- i. Should access be granted, it will be the responsibility of the property owner(s) or their successors to perpetually maintain direct walkways or connections to the trail from their properties.
 - ii. The permittee will be required to enter into an agreement with the County for Maintenance and Liability for the connection. Should any necessary improvements be identified as part of County inspections, it will be the property owner's responsibility to implement them at their cost.
- C. All permitting, design, and construction costs related to any new access point to the CCT will be the applicant's responsibility.
- D. Requests for access may need to be coordinated with the MDOT MTA and the Purple Line Concessionaire through MCDOT.

For information regarding the permit process to construct an access point onto the CCT within the Georgetown Branch, or any other question concerning access to the CCT, please contact Atiq Panjshiri with the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) at:

Atiq.Panjshiri@montgomerycountymd.gov or via telephone at 240-777-6352.

Effective Date:

January 6, 2024

Division Chief:

Linda Kobylski

