

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MCDOT)

ADOPT A ROAD (AAR) PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements and Program and Safety Guidelines

1. **Volunteers may opt to adopt a road for an unlimited amount of time as long as they meet participation and reporting requirements.** Most road segments are about a mile in length. Each individual, group or business volunteer typically adopts only one County-owned road segment.

If a group or individual wants to adopt a second road and the road is not adopted within six months of their request, the requestor may adopt it if they have met the reporting requirements for their current road. Roads within municipalities or State-maintained roads (designated by a route number) cannot be adopted through the County's Adopt-A-Road program. Get more information on the State's **Adopt-A-Highway** program online at <http://sha.maryland.gov/index.aspx?PageId=11> or by calling 301-513-7300 or 301-572-5166.

2. **AAR volunteers agree to clean their road segment as needed, but no fewer than six times a year, including one major cleaning in the spring.** Be sure to clean the entire length of the road on each side from beginning to end. **NOTE:** AAR signs may not always be placed at the ends of the adopted road segment because of safety or other considerations. Signs may be installed a few hundred feet from the intersections that begin and end your road or elsewhere depending upon other issues.

Some shorter road segments of a half-mile or less may also be available. Volunteers agree to clean these shorter roadways and each bus stop along the route for a minimum of **12 times a year**.

3. **Volunteers who adopt a road agree to report their cleanings either online or by email.** The Volunteer Team Leader/Coordinator is required to report; The name of the volunteer group, date of clean up, total volunteers involved, number of trash bags filled and type of bag used (tall kitchen bag, lawn/leaf bag, or AAR orange bag). If the road is fairly clean, you are still required to report this each month.

Several options are available to report clean ups; online, by email to mcdot.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov or leave a voicemail message on the **Community Outreach Hotline** at **240-777-7155** (press # to bypass the greeting). If the adopted road is cleaned more than once a month, volunteers can report their results monthly. Reports serve as a reference if complaints arise concerning the condition of the adopted road.

4. **MCDOT reserves the right to reassign an adopted road solely at its discretion or under the following conditions:** a) MCDOT receives two or more complaints within a six-month period about the cleanliness of the adopted road segment; or b) No cleanings are reported by the volunteer for a six-month period.
5. **Dispose of up to three bags of collected trash by including them in your regular household or business trash pickup.** Four or more bags of trash or large debris will be collected by MCDOT's Division of Highway Services. Place all trash and debris in one location and arrange for a one-time trash pickup by contacting MC311 either online or by calling 311, or 240-777-0311 from outside the County. Be sure to note the precise location of the items.

During a cleanup, **collect recyclables separately and place them in your household or business recycling bin.** Highway Services will not collect recyclables. Volunteers are strongly urged to collect recyclables separately from trash so they can be disposed of appropriately.

Do not touch or try to remove materials that you suspect may be toxic or hazardous, such as batteries, powders, chemicals, smelly substances, suspicious packages, chemical drums or containers, weapons, syringes or needles and dead animal carcasses. Report hazardous materials to the Department of Environmental Protection at 240-777-3867.

If you find large items like appliances or tires, contact the MC311 Call Center online or by calling 311, or 240-777-0311 from outside the County. Report animal carcasses along a County road by contacting MC311 online or by calling 311, or 240-777-0311 from outside the County. For carcasses within 15 feet of a State road, call 301-948-2477 or 301-572-5166.

6. **AAR signs are generally 30 by 20 inches in size with a name plate displaying the volunteer group name** attached underneath. Nameplates display the name of the volunteer, organization or business that has adopted the road. The nameplates are **limited in size to 12 characters (including spaces) per line with no more than two lines.** Slogans, messages, phone numbers, website addresses or any other information besides the name of the volunteer individual, business or organization is prohibited from use on the AAR sign nameplate. **Signs are not required in order to adopt a road.**