

# Fenton Village Bike & Pedestrian Projects

## Project Newsletter Number 2, February 2020

*NOTE: This newsletter is formatted to be optimized for screen readers.*

Thank you for your interest in the Fenton Village bike and pedestrian projects! The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (M-C-D-O-T) is continuing planning efforts for the three related bike and pedestrian improvement projects in Fenton Village. We will provide regular updates through newsletters like this one.

We had a successful community meeting on January 21st at East Silver Spring Elementary School. We estimate that about 125 people attended, and we received dozens of comments. Whether or not you attended, we hope you will stay engaged.

The displays and presentation from the meeting are available on our website. (<https://tinyurl.com/FentonVillage>).



## **Updates At A Glance**

This section provides a quick update of the status of each project.

### Fenton Street Bikeway Study

- Phase: Planning study.
- Phase completion: Fall 2020.
- Next phase: Preliminary design.
- Happening now: Development of alternatives, traffic counts update.

### Fenton Street / Maryland Route 410 Intersection

- Phase: Preliminary design.
- Phase completion: Summer 2020.
- Next phase: Intermediate design.
- Happening now: Selection of preferred alternative, inter-agency coordination.

### Grove Street Neighborhood Greenway

- Phase: Pilot design.
- Phase completion: Summer 2020.
- Next phase: Pilot stage 1.
- Happening now: Traffic counts and analysis.

(End of Updates At A Glance section).

## **Fenton Street Bikeway Study**

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (M-C-D-O-T) is undertaking a study to determine the benefits and impacts of a bikeway on Fenton Street. The limits of the project is from Cameron Street in the north to King Street in the south.

The study will update traffic counts from 2017, update surveys to account for new development, get information about corridor needs from residents and businesses, locate utilities, and test the different alternatives for impacts to traffic, parking, and loading.

The Study is anticipated to take 9-12 months to complete, and started in December 2019. We expect to complete the study in the Fall of 2020. We

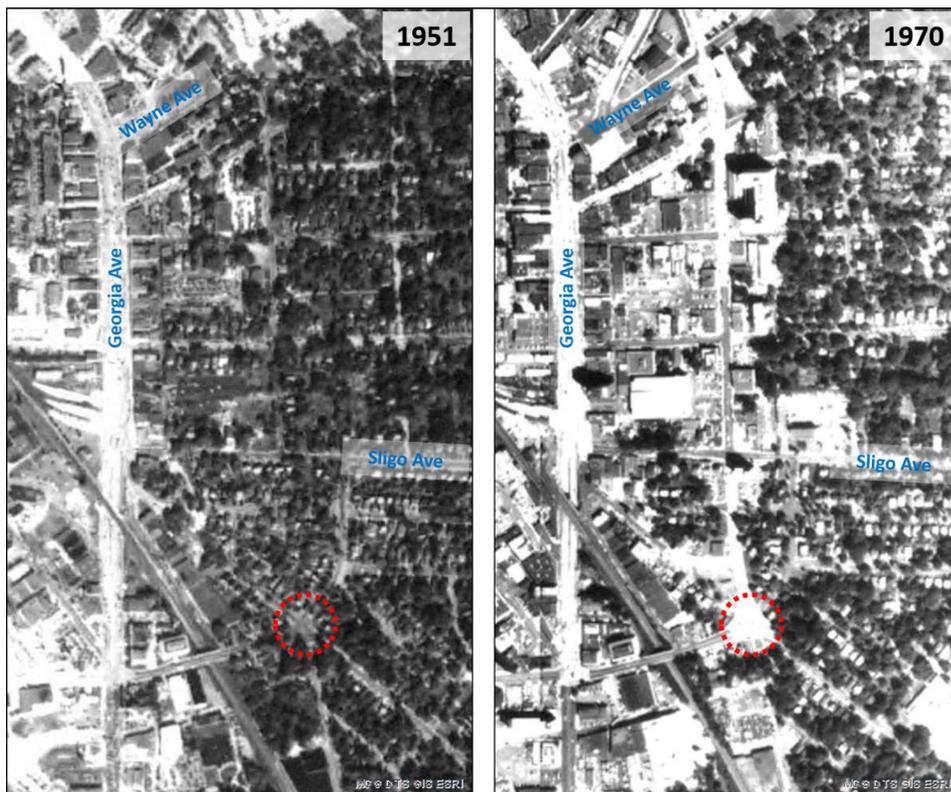
expect to hold a second community meeting in late Fall to present the study findings. A preferred alternative will be selected following that meeting.

### **Fenton Street / Maryland Route 410 Intersection Redesign**

The intersection between Maryland Route 410 (Burlington Avenue / Philadelphia Avenue) and Fenton Street took on its existing form in 1960, when Fenton Street was extended from its terminus at Sligo Avenue to Maryland Route 410. The high-speed turn ramps do not reflect a design that is safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

M-C-D-O-T is in the preliminary stages of design with this project. The next step is to select the alternative that will move forward into intermediate design. We presented three options at the community meeting on January 21.

Because Maryland Route 410 is controlled by the Maryland State Highway Administration (S-H-A), we will conduct extensive coordination with them during the design process.



*The aerial photos above show Fenton Village in 1951 (left) and 1970 (right). Prior to 1960, Fenton Street did not extend south of Sligo Avenue.*

The intersection of Fenton and Maryland Route 410 is circled in red in both pictures.

## Grove Street Neighborhood Greenway Pilot

A narrow neighborhood street without sidewalks, Grove Street is designated as a Neighborhood Greenway in the Bicycle Master Plan.

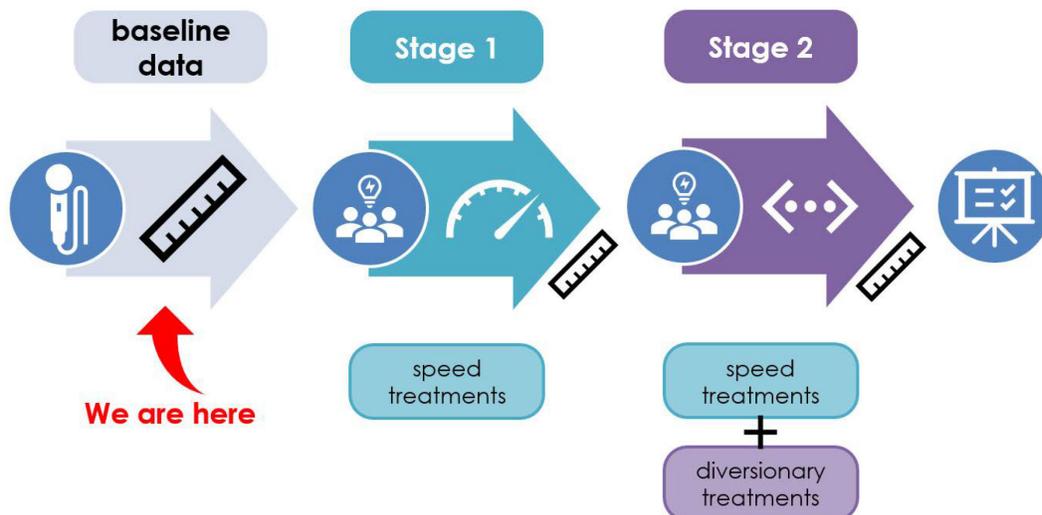
What is a “neighborhood greenway”? A neighborhood greenway is a street where the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists is prioritized and the fast, through movement of vehicles is discouraged. Tools can include speed treatments, like speed humps and chicanes, and volume management, like diverters.

M-C-D-O-T plans to institute the pilot using interim treatments that can be easily removed or modified. The first stage will focus on treatments to reduce speed, and the second stage will add at least one treatment to divert traffic to reduce volume.

The Department is currently collecting baseline traffic speed and volume data on Grove Street and adjacent streets. This will allow us to develop a plan.

We anticipate holding a community meeting to propose specific treatments and get community feedback in late Spring 2020. Implementation of stage 1 is anticipated in Fall 2020.

### Grove Street Neighborhood Greenway Pilot Project Proposed Timeline



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Here are a few common questions that we have received. If you have a question not answered here, please contact the Project Manager.

**Question:** Why can't you just build a sidewalk on Grove Street?

**Answer:** We understand that many residents are in favor of constructing a sidewalk on Grove Street. Building a concrete sidewalk behind the curb is beyond the scope of the pilot project, but that doesn't mean it will never happen. However, there is not enough right-of-way on Grove Street for a sidewalk, which means the County would need to purchase property or narrow the street to construct a sidewalk. In the meantime, however, the pilot project can consider an "interim" style sidewalk that would repurpose space in the roadway.

**Question:** Why didn't you bring specific proposals about Grove Street to the January meeting?

**Answer:** The January 21 meeting was intended to introduce the projects to the public. We will hold a meeting on the Grove Street Pilot stage 1 improvements in Spring or Summer 2020.

**Question:** Why is the Fenton Street study taking a year?

**Answer:** While we understand that it can be frustrating to wait for these improvements, there are a lot of things M-C-D-O-T has to accomplish before being able to move the project forward. The study phase of the project is already underway, and we anticipate it will be completed in Fall 2020. During the 9 to 12 months of the study, M-C-D-O-T has to update traffic counts, conduct survey, locate utilities, develop and analyze alternatives, and coordinate with other agencies from whom we need approvals.

**Question:** Why will it take 4 years before you start construction on Fenton Street?

**Answer:** We anticipate that construction could start in Fiscal Year 2023, which starts on July 1, 2022. However, it is likely that major construction would start in Spring 2023, following utility work in Fall 2022. This is a complicated project that will impact utilities, crosses 3 State highways, will impact drainage, and must be coordinated with multiple agencies. However, M-C-D-O-T is committed to moving the project forward as quickly

as possible. There will be many opportunities for public engagement throughout the process.

**Question:** With all the construction, how can you do traffic counts?

**Answer:** We conducted initial traffic counts in 2017, before Pepco construction started. Our updates will compare the numbers to identify where construction might be having an impact, and we can adjust for that. We also can model the changes happening as a result of the Purple Line crossing Fenton Street at Wayne Avenue. Traffic counts on Grove Street were collected on days with and without construction, but we will only use data from when the street was open.

(End of Frequently Asked Questions section).

### **(Contact Information Section)**

The project website is located at: <https://tinyurl.com/FentonVillage>.

The Project Manager is Matt Johnson.

His phone number is 240-777-7237.

His email is [Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov).

To sign up for the project update mailing list, please send an email to [Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov) and indicate you're interested in the Fenton Village projects mailing list.

The Division of Transportation Engineering can be reached by phone at 240-777-7270. You can follow them on Twitter at [@MoCo\\_DTE](https://twitter.com/MoCo_DTE). The D-T-E website is <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/index.html>.

For alternative formats of this newsletter, please contact us at 240-777-7623 (Voice). T-T-Y users call Maryland Relay.