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The Plan Ahead is a project  
 newsletter published by  
 MCDOT to encourage  
 community participation.

# THE PLAN AHEAD

ARTHUR HOLMES, JR. - Director, Department of Transportation

## OAK DRIVE/RIDGE ROAD (MD 27) SIDEWALK STUDY

The safe and efficient accommodation of pedestrians and cyclists along the roadway is equally important as the provisions for vehicles. Montgomery County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT) believes sidewalks, shared-use paths, and bikeways enrich the livability of a community and serves as critical facilities in the transportation network by providing multi-modal access to neighborhoods, transit, commercial districts, schools, and recreation areas.

Accordingly, MCDOT has initiated a Planning Study to evaluate sidewalk improvements along:

1. The West side of Oak Drive from Ridge Road (south intersection) to Ridge Road (north intersection).
2. The East side of Ridge Road (MD 27) from Oak Drive (south intersection) to Bethesda Church Road
3. Kingstead Road from Oak Drive to the John Haines Neighborhood Park.



Oak Drive and Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Project Study Area

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a brief overview of this project and to invite you to attend the public meeting.

## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

As with all new transportation projects MCDOT refers to the recommendations set forth in the adopted and approved Master Plan to implement and enhance the proposed visions of the area. The Damascus Master Plan Approved and Adopted June 2006 recommends to provide a dense network of sidewalks within the town center with extensions to key civic destinations elsewhere in the plan area.

## PROJECT PURPOSE

For more information, please contact **Uzair Asadullah - Project Manager**  
 Phone: 240. 777. 7242 Email: [uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
<http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DTE/Projects/ProjectHome.aspx>

The purpose of the Oak Drive/Ridge Road Phase I Sidewalk Improvement Study is to promote and enhance continuous, safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities between residential neighborhoods, schools and community facilities; improve access to transit stops and commercial facilities within the Damascus Town Center; and implement the approved Master Plan vision in the study area.

## PUBLIC MEETING

The purpose of this newsletter is to invite you to attend the first public meeting for the Oak Drive/Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Project. For any project to be successful, MCDOT considers public involvement critical to

**OAK DRIVE/RIDGE ROAD (MD 27) SIDEWALK PUBLIC MEETING**  
 Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
 Damascus Elementary School—All Purpose Room  
 8712 Oakmont Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20877



**Directions: From MD 27 North**  
 Turn right onto Bethesda Church Road. Damascus Elementary School is on the right. Use 3rd driveway to enter into school's staff / visitors parking lot.

**From MD 27 South**  
 At the intersection of MD 27 and Bethesda Church Road turn left onto Bethesda Church Road. Damascus Elementary School is on the right. Use 3rd driveway to enter into school's staff / visitors parking lot.



# The Life of a Transportation Project

## FACILITY PLANNING-PHASE I

Collect data, develop concept plans, obtain public input, evaluate and select preferred alignment/cross section. Obtain approval from Montgomery County Council's Transportation Infrastructure, Energy and Environment committee (T&E) and MCDOT's Director.

## FACILITY PLANNING-PHASE II

Develop 35% design plans, cost estimate and project schedule.

Submit to County Council for approval to include in Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

If approved for full funding and is included in the CIP, complete final design and construction.

### LEGEND

CURRENTLY FUNDED

NOT FUNDED

planning a new facility and will continually seek feedback throughout the planning process.

The purpose of this public meeting is to:

- Introduce the Study Team and establish meaningful lines of communication between the Study Team and the public;
- Share project information with the public in an all-inclusive manner;
- Present and discuss the planning study and

### OAK DRIVE/RIDGE ROAD SIDEWALK STUDY

#### PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday December 8, 2009

From 7:00 PM To 8:30 PM

Damascus Elementary School  
10201 Bethesda Church Road  
Damascus, MD 20872

accompanying roadway concepts;

- Clarify any issues concerning the master-planned improvements;
- Gather feedback from the public.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why is it important to attend this meeting?

MCDOT believes that public input is the key to an effective planning process because it allows the Study Team and decision makers to understand the needs of the community. The public meeting will also allow you to learn more about the project and provide an opportunity to voice your concerns.

### What should I expect at the public workshop?

At the public workshop, you will get an opportunity to meet the representatives from

different agencies who are a part of the Study Team. Displays will be arranged where you can learn about the Facility Planning process and the alternatives being evaluated. You may ask questions of the Study Team and offer any suggestions that would meet the objectives of the project.

### What if I can not attend the meeting? Are there other ways to provide input?

We certainly understand that your schedule may not permit you to attend the public meeting. You may share your comments by completing and returning the postage-paid Public Comments Form by **January 15, 2010**, or by contacting the Project Manager, Uzair Asadullah at 240-777-7242 or by e-mail: [uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov)

### What is Facility Planning?

Facility Planning for transportation improvements is an evaluation process that furnishes design plans which are approximately 35% complete. It is managed in two phases.

Phase I addresses two essential questions:

- What will the improvements be?
- Why are the improvements necessary?

Phase II addresses:

- How will the improvements be performed?
- How long will the design/construction take?
- How much will the improvements cost?

The components of both Phase I and II provide enough information for elected officials to determine whether or not the project is justified to be fully funded for design and construction.

### What stage is the Oak Drive/Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Project at?

The Oak Drive/Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Project is in Phase I of the Facility Planning Process, which is the beginning of the analysis. Phase I generally provides 15% design and involves:

1. Collecting background data, reviewing the Master Plan and identifying pending developments within the project limits;
2. Obtaining public input;
3. Developing concept plans; and selecting a Recommended Alternative.

### What happens after this meeting?

Your comments and concerns will be taken into consideration as the Study Team refines and finalizes various concepts. The concept that best addresses the project's purpose and need and the concerns of the community will be selected as the Recommended Alternative. A newsletter will be mailed informing the community of the Recommended Alternative.

### Who receives this newsletter?

The newsletter is mailed to Homeowner Associations representing the subject Study Area and property owners directly abutting the subject roadway whose names appear on the County's Geographical Information System (GIS) database.

If you would like to receive future newsletters on the Oak Drive/Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Project, MCDOT would be pleased to have your name added to the project's mailing list. Please contact the Project Manager, Uzair Asadullah by email to: [uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## MCDOT WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK

The MCDOT encourages you to provide your concerns on the postage-paid Public Comments Form included with this newsletter. If you have access to the internet, you may e-mail your comments directly to the project manager at: [uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:uzair.asadullah@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Your input is important, as it allows Montgomery County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT), decision makers and elected officials to understand the concerns of the community. Your comments become a part of public records and may be included and/or summarized in the Oak Drive/Ridge Road (MD 27) Sidewalk Project Prospectus. Due to the high volume of comments we receive, we regret that we may be unable to respond to each inquiry. MCDOT assures you that all comments will be read and evaluated.



Public input is the key to an effective planning process. Let MCDOT hear from you!