



Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING
 100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor
 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
 Phone: 240. 777. 7223 • Fax: 240. 777. 7277



ISIAH LEGGETT
 Montgomery County Executive

OCTOBER 2009

Division of
 Transportation Engineering

100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878
 Phone: 240-777-7223
 Fax: 240-777-7277

Bruce Johnston, P.E.
 Division Chief

Holger Serrano, P.E.
 Deputy

Sogand Seirafi, P.E.
 Planning & Design

Tom M. Reise
 Property Acquisition Chief

Tim Cupples, P.E.
 Construction

For alternative formats of this newsletter, contact the Division of Transportation Engineering at 240-777-7220. TTY users call MD relay.

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

THE PLAN AHEAD

Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation

Roberts Tavern Drive Extended Facility Planning Study in Progress

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is performing a planning study to determine the need to extend existing Roberts Tavern Drive to MD 355 (Frederick Road) in Clarksburg, Maryland.

Currently, a 500-foot segment of Roberts Tavern Drive between Observation Drive and Latrobe Lane exists. This existing section has two lanes, a sidewalk and a bikepath. Facility Planning Phase I will evaluate the extension of existing Roberts Tavern Drive to MD 355 (Frederick Road), which is approximately 1,000 feet.

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

As with all new transportation projects, MCDOT refers to the recommendations set forth in the adopted and approved Master Plans to implement and enhance the proposed visions of the area. Two area Master Plans encompass the Roberts Tavern Drive, including: (1) 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan & Hyattstown Special Protection Area and; (2) 2005 Countywide Bikeway Functional Master Plan.

Roberts Tavern Drive is located along the master planned alignment for future relocated Frederick Road (MD 355), designated as A-251 in the 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan & Hyattstown Special Study Area. The master plan objective is to divert the area's regional through traffic away from the Clarksburg Town Center and its historic district. To address this, the master plan recommends MD 355 be relocated from north of Cool Brook Lane to Snowden Farm Parkway through future Roberts Tavern Drive and Observation Drive. Between

these limits, existing MD 355 will be reclassified as a business street, remaining as a two-lane roadway, and future relocated MD 355 is proposed as a four-lane divided arterial.

The purpose of Roberts Tavern Drive Extended is to improve mobility, access and vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian connections between MD 355 and Observation Drive and the surrounding roadway network. These improvements will improve travel efficiency, divert regional through traffic around the Clarksburg Town Center and its historic district, provide congestion relief, expand neighborhood connections, and enhance multimodal access. The roadway connection is important to relieve future congestion on MD 355, and improve transportation network efficiency by providing an additional east-west connection between MD 355 and Observation Drive.

PUBLIC MEETING

This newsletter is to provide a brief overview of this project and to invite you to attend the public meeting where you can learn more information regarding this project and provide us with your input.

ROBERTS TAVERN DRIVE EXTENDED Public Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2009
 7:00-9:00 PM
 Clarksburg High School, Cafeteria
 22500 Wims Road
 Clarksburg, MD 20871

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Roberts Tavern Drive Extended Public Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2009, 7:00—9:00 PM

Clarksburg High School, Cafeteria, 22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

Directions to Public Meeting

From North

From intersection of Stringtown Road and Frederick Road (MD 355), head south approximately 1 mile along MD 355. Turn into parking entrances on the right.

From South

From intersection of West Old Baltimore Road and Frederick Road (MD 355), head north approximately 1 mile along MD 355. Turn into parking entrances on the left.



The objective of the public meeting is to:

1. Introduce the Study Team and establish meaningful lines of communication between the Study Team and the public;
2. Share project information with the public in an all-inclusive manner;
3. Present and discuss the planning study and accompanying roadway concepts;
4. Clarify any issues concerning the master-planned improvements;
5. Gather feedback from the public.



The dashed line for the Proposed Roberts Tavern Drive Extended is for illustrative purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the final roadway alignment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is it important for me to attend this meeting?
V V 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?
V V 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 cannot attend the meeting? Is there any other way that I can be certain that you will receive my input?
V V 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 **December 3, 2009** or by contacting the Project Manager, Greg Hwang at 240. 777. 7279 or e-mail to: Greg.Hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov

What is Facility Planning?
V V 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 Roberts Tavern Drive Extended Study?
V V Roberts Tavern Drive Extended is in Phase I of the Facility Planning Process, which is the beginning stage 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?
V V Your comments and concerns will be taken into consideration as the Study Team refines and finalizes the 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?
V V The newsletter is mailed to Home Owner 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 Roberts Tavern Drive Extended Study, MCDOT would be pleased to have your name added to the project's mailing list. Please contact the Project Manager, Greg Hwang at 240. 777. 7279 or e-mail to: Greg.Hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov

The Life of a Transportation Project

FACILITY PLANNING-PHASE I

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

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

MCDOT WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK

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: Greg.Hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov

Your input is important, it allows 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 Roberts Tavern Drive Extended 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!

For more information on the Roberts Tavern Drive Extended study, log onto www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DTE/index.html



Planning
 Montgomery County Department of Transportation