


Briefing on Mid-County Highway Corridor Study Supplement by MCDOT

 Steve Aldrich, Master Planner, FP&P, stephen.aldrich@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-4528

 Pamela Dunn, Chief, FP&P, pamela.dunn@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-650-5649

Completed: 03/20/17

Summary

Representatives from Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will provide a briefing on the recently-completed Mid-County Highway Corridor Study Supplement to present objectives, alternatives considered, findings, and next steps. M-NCPPC staff has conducted a study preliminary review of the Study Supplement. A summary of the project history of the Mid-County Highway (referred to in the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways as M-83) is presented below.

Timeline/Project History

Planning for the 8.7 mile-long Mid-County Highway started in the 1960's, and this road (M-83) has been in the Master Plan of Highways since 1967. M-83 is included in the following approved Master Plans:

- Clarksburg and Hyattstown Special Study Area (1994)
- Gaithersburg Vicinity (1985/88/90)
- Germantown (1989)
- Montgomery Village (2016)
- Shady Grove Sector Plan (2006)
- Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

Three miles of M-83 was constructed as a four-lane divided highway between Shady Grove Road and Montgomery Village Avenue in 2000. MCDOT initiated a facility planning study in 2003 to consider the completion of this highway connection.

A draft Environmental Effects Report (EER) was published in May 2013. In a November 12, 2013 review of the May 2013 Environmental Effects Report (EER), Planning staff included the following recommendation:

- Evaluate a transit alternative that includes elements of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as described in the soon to be adopted Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan and incorporates elements of Alternatives 2 and 5 before selecting a preferred alternative.

Implicit in this recommendation from Planning staff was the belief that a more-focused improvement of the MD 355 corridor including BRT would obviate the need for the construction of the Mid-County Highway within the plan horizon (2040), and would likely cost less and have significantly fewer

environmental impacts. However, in a close vote on November 25, 2013, the Planning Board endorsed the Master Plan alignment 9.

In March 2015, the Draft Preferred Alternative/Conceptual Mitigation Report (PA/CM) was issued by MCDOT. No BRT alternative was included in this report; however, on April 7, 2015, Al Roshdieh, then Acting Director of MCDOT, issued a statement that the County Executive does not support building the road, he did not recommend the preferred alternative and stated that MCDOT would be taking a fresh look at various options for M-83, including BRT service on MD 355.

A supplemental report was issued by MCDOT on February 10, 2017 for the Mid-County Corridor Study. The study and supporting materials can be found at the following links:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/corridor/Resources/Files/Feb%2010%202017%20Midcounty%20Corridor%20Study%20Supplement%20Report.PDF>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/corridor/Resources/Files/Supporting%20Materials.pdf>

This is the most recent report on this project since the issuance of the Draft Preferred Alternative/Conceptual Mitigation Report (PA/CM) in March 2015.