



District 18 Virtual Meeting Wrap-Up for May 18, 2020

Connecticut Avenue

Item: Status of the evaluation of safety improvement near Saul Road

Update: *Signal reconstruction and protective arrow projects have been approved. Projects have been in aggressive design mode as has been even prior to approval.*

Signal reconstruction and left turn projects here must move in tandem as additional equipment weight to the span wire will lower it.

Curb changes and some ADA improvements will also be included in this project. Current anticipated project timeline (subject to change) is on track for late spring 2021 estimated completion date (conservative estimate). Underground utilities and right-of way-concerns could impact design and anticipated completion date at this location. We will keep the District 18 team updated on the progress of the project.

Other improvements requested after the town hall last year

Update: Between Knowles and MD 193—MDOT SHA would like to lean on District 18 for the community’s vision and consensus for turn restrictions on MD 185 regarding time of day (rush hours) and a permanent bowl restriction (24 hours per day). MDOT SHA will share information sheets about the turn restrictions with District 18 team to engage residents and gain their perspective about these improvements including the two towns on either side of MD 185 located closest the proposed safety improvements zone.

The Delegation agreed to share the information with impacted citizens. Eden from Delegate Solomon’s office expressed the delegate’s desire for a community Zoom meeting in the future regarding improvements at MD 185 and Saul Road and MD 185 at Knowles Avenue with MDOT SHA participation.

MDOT SHA IT regulations prevent it from hosting Zoom videoconferences, but MDOT SHA team members can participate in Zoom calls hosted and initiated by others. The Delegation will confer and decide the technology format for the community meeting and will update the MDOT SHA District 3 team on next steps.

Sen. Waldstreicher commented that some of the Knowles Avenue-related issue may be resolved once the Summit Avenue extension project is complete and suggested someone from MCDOT join the upcoming community meeting to give a timeline update on that project. SHA District 3 explained that they are working with MCDOT on the project and remarked that the project is in Phase 2 (design). MDOT SHA Planning officials are embarking on a larger comprehensive study of the larger MD 185 corridor to look at some of the suggested improvements that arose as a result of previous community meetings. These two elements will be coming together and District 3 will share the information about the location with the SHA Planning team.

Items: Status of evaluating various spots of improvements to ease traffic flow on MD 185 including:

- **Third marked turn lane on westbound Plyers Mill Road**—Del. Carr expressed that the Town of Kensington wonders if there is an opportunity to mark a third left turn lane here similar to the triple left on Knowles Avenue onto MD 185.

The Town of Kensington is also wondering if a new northbound lane could be added on MD 185 between the bridge over the tracks and Plyers Mill Road. Town officials have also inquired about more efficient turn movements at this intersection including creation of a jug handle to re-rote some of those turn movements.

Update: MDOT SHA is working with MCDOT on these concerns. MCDOT shared their traffic modeling as part of their Phase 2 work. MCDOT's initial results did not show the yield benefit that they anticipated. This info was shared with Councilmember Crimmons. MDOT SHA will follow up with MCDOT on this. The findings are irrespective of the southbound left turn extension at Plyers Mill Road. The other suggestions (jug handle and other improvements) were still at the "no yield; benefit shown" status. MDOT SHA will follow up with MCDOT accordingly and share any new information.

Item: Southbound, approaching I-495. Will salt barn construction result in restoration of the pavement markings to allow more efficient merging from southbound MD 185 onto westbound and eastbound I-495?

Update: Project is progressing. Once complete, MDOT SHA is confident that pavement markings will be refreshed to produce best results for all traffic in the corridor near the salt barn. Once installed, MDOT SHA will review the markings and take next steps to enhance the pavement markings for maximum visibility and roadway capacity.

MD 410

Item: Status of evaluation of new sidewalk between Rocton Avenue and Beach Drive

Update: MDOT SHA has evaluated the section of MD 410 between for sidewalk installations in the past and is very challenging. The terrain is steep and has extensive utility relocations presents funding challenges for MDOT SHA and MCDOT. Building sidewalks here would have to include 10- to 12-foot retaining walls, not just sidewalks.

Item: Status of evaluation of signal near Edgevale Road

Update: The signal concepts continue to be developed. MDOT SHA has reached out to Town of Chevy Chase officials regarding those options. Evaluation of all options including a rapid-flashing beacon and a HAWK signal are under evaluation against the backdrop of MDOT SHA Context Driven guide and in conjunction with our Office of Traffic and Safety (OOTs). MDOT SHA should be able to share a recommendation for a safe crossing at this location, tentatively, by late June or early July. MDOT SHA will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of a HAWK here given the offset of the two streets and traffic conflicts at this intersection and mid-block crossing warrants where HAWKs are generally installed. MDOT SHA has worked with the Town to advance a project to signal the crossing at MD 410 project at Montgomery Avenue near Bethesda-Chevy Chase high school to alleviate safety concerns here. MDOT SHA will reassess the MD 410 corridor once Purple Line construction wraps up.

Item: MD 410 at Grubb Road re-signalization/safety request update

Update: MDOT SHA will review findings at this location and will share recommendations with the Delegation shortly if they map to the improvements. Delegate Solomon and the District 18 team may be interested in hosting a follow-up community Zoom meeting should any improvements impact the MD 410/Grubb Road intersection. MDOT SHA is also working with MCPS and their Safe Routes to Schools coordinator to urge them to reinstate a crossing guard at this location.

Item: Strathmore Avenue—Status of evaluation of new sidewalk near Holy Cross, west of Garrett Park

Update: MDOT SHA is working to get the topography and utility surveys completed prior to the start of the pandemic. Shelter-in-place has pushed back delivery of the survey results to the end of June. Currently the project is only funded for 30 percent of design costs to better quantify and identify potential project impacts like stormwater management concerns. All design as part of the 30 percent benchmark should be complete, tentatively, by late fall 2020.

Item: MD 390/16th Street—Status of evaluation of new sidewalk and pedestrian signal, 2nd Avenue to Hanover Street

Update: *MDOT SHA has determined that it is feasible to locate sidewalk here, however; there may be right-of-way and terrain challenges. Neighbor and property owner pushback about locating sidewalk here could be a factor. There is also a cost share component in which Montgomery County would be responsible for 25 percent of the construction cost.*

MDOT SHA can initiate a concept or layout, but procedurally, MCDOT would need to initiate the sidewalk request here as they would be ultimately responsible for its upkeep once any sidewalk construction is complete.

Item: University Boulevard—Between Kensington and Wheaton - When is the road scheduled for resurfacing?

Update: *The road was last resurfaced here in 2009. Del. Carr expressed a desire to be given advance notice on when the resurfacing would begin to initiate a larger conversation about the configuration of MD 193. Neighbors have complained about vehicle speeds, sidewalks close to homes and the potential to remove lanes here as part of a road diet and install new pedestrian and bicycle facilities. MDOT SHA's comprehensive corridor reviews for roads like MD 193 will include community input and will be applied to resurfacing projects on a rolling basis as prior to the projects being funded for construction similar to the corridor study on MD 185.*

Item: MD 586/Veirs Mill Road—Status of evaluating new sidewalk near Newport Mill Road

Update: *MDOT SHA reviewed this section for placement sidewalk a few years ago. MCDOT is also aware of this request. MDOT SHA has worked to remove fire hydrants and other pedestrian impediments at this location. Limited frontages, underground utilities and terrain issue that would require retaining walls are factors here. We encourage District 18 to follow-up with MCDOT to prioritize funding to pursue the project.*

Current planned MDOT SHA improvements on MD 586 include at Norris Drive for safer school crossings and a HAWK near Andrew Street to provide a consolidated crossing for road users in this section of the corridor.

Item: Status of evaluating new sidewalk between Harvard and Turkey Branch

Update: *Terrain here is flat. MDOT SHA will examine right-of-way ownership here. It was suggested that the Delegation write a letter to the MCDOT to ask for this location to be explored, funded and programmed for sidewalk. Location seems feasible. MDOT SHA will send summary of exact ownership of plots of land and sidewalk maintenance responsibilities for any new sidewalk.*

Item: Update on Randolph Road/Glenmont Circle Safety issues

Update: *MCDOT is taking a look at safety issues here. MDOT SHA has some recommendations in this area near the Metro station on nearby MD 97. These recommendations have been sent to OOTS. Those are being vetted. A follow-up meeting is scheduled with OOTS for early June. Additional updates will be forthcoming after that meeting. One of the recommendations is a south leg crosswalk at MD 97 and MD 192 and seems feasible at this time.*