

HB1173: Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk Highways MC 17-25  
Position: Favorable

As a 35-year resident and homeowner in Derwood, and a member of the Derwood Neighborhood Community Alliance (DNCA), I support House Bill 1173 Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk Highways MC 17-25.

While the posted speed limit on the residential sections of Shady Grove Road, between Midcounty Highway (M-83) and the I-370/Metro Access Road, was recently reduced from 45 to 40 mph, the target speed for that section of road is 30 mph. Reference: <https://mcatlas.org/mpoht/>  
Despite the “limits” and “target”, vehicle speeds regularly exceed 70 mph and, current law does not allow for automated enforcement (a speed camera).

Many Derwood residents, who have, for decades, expressed our concerns about safety issues on Shady Grove Rd, are grateful that Montgomery County’s approach has changed from one of keeping traffic moving to one of recognizing that the incidence of roadway fatalities and serious injuries is unacceptably high and that changes are required to calm traffic and increase the safety of everyone. The DNCA believes that speed camera enforcement is an integral part of the success of this effort, and that it will support of the County PD’s efforts.

Specifically, please note that:

“Areas along [Shady Grove Rd] have been identified in the Montgomery County Vision Zero plan as dangerous with multiple collisions involving vehicles and pedestrians resulting in serious injury or death.”

Reference: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/ShadyGroveStudy/index.html>

Shady Grove Road, from the “Metro Access Road to Midcounty Highway [is] identified in the County’s Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN)”, which “highlights the roads with the highest serious and fatal crash rates”

Reference: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/ShadyGroveStudy/index.html>

and

“Shady Grove Rd from Frederick Rd to Midcounty Hwy” is in the County’s Top 10 list of “County-maintained Priority Roads”.

Reference: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/vz2030-plan.pdf>

The Shady Grove Rd intersections with Tupelo/Epsilon roads and Briardale Road are high incident areas.

Reference: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/ShadyGroveStudy/index.html>

Reference: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/vz2030-plan.pdf>

As such, this portion of Shady Grove Rd is included in the County’s Vision Zero Plan with the “goal of ending serious injury and death on our roadways”; the “High Injury Network Projects”, which are a priority within the Plan are to “implement safety countermeasures on identified high-risk road segments and intersections”.

Reference:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/FY24-25\\_Vision\\_Zero\\_Workplan.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/FY24-25_Vision_Zero_Workplan.pdf)

Additional reference:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/vz2030-plan.pdf>

The decision by the Committee must encompass and integrate with the County’s safety efforts and with its Vision Zero plan – “No traffic deaths by 2030”.

Please vote to move HB1173 forward.