

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

Testimony In Favor of HB1173, Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk Highways MC 17-25

Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing: March 11th, 2025.

Roger Alexander, PhD - on behalf of Derwood Neighborhood Community Alliance (DNCA)

Briardale Road

Derwood, MD 20855

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **support of** HB1173 to Chairman Delegate Marc Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

Background

My wife and I are Montgomery County residents and have lived at the intersection of Briardale and Shady Grove Road in Derwood, MD for the past 32 years. We have thus had firsthand experience of the effects of transportation and traffic implementation decisions made over the years affecting Shady Grove Road. We strongly advocate for monitoring systems to improve road safety by encouraging greater speed compliance on community roadways such as Shady Grove Road.

I am submitting written testimony on behalf of a group of County residents, the Derwood Neighborhood Community Alliance (DNCA), who are particularly concerned about traffic and safety on roads through the Derwood community. The DNCA is a subgroup of the Derwood Neighborhood residents, many with decades of residency, situated along the Shady Grove Road corridor from I-370 to Midcounty Highway (M-83) who have been working with Montgomery County Councilwoman Luedtke's Office, State Representatives Stewart, Crutchfield and Cullison, Senator Kramer, and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Vision Zero Planning, and Police Department, to address issues of traffic and safety.

DNCA Advocates in FAVOR of HB1173

Our Derwood residential community straddles Shady Grove Road between the I-370 Exit and Midcounty Highway - see Figure below taken from the Montgomery County Master Plan of Highways and Transitways, MPOHT interactive map. As documented in the Montgomery County Database (see Montgomery County's [Interactive Crash Map](#) for the Shady Grove Road-Briardale Road intersection), this particular stretch of Shady Grove Road and particularly at the Briardale Road and Tupelo/Epsilon Drive intersections, have had very high accident rates, including fatalities. Shady Grove Road has also been designated as part of the County's [High Injury Network](#) based on the high rate of accidents and road fatalities.

As a community we support the provisions of HB1173 that will allow automated speed monitoring systems to be deployed on higher-risk roadways even where the posted speed limit is above 35 mph. Because of the limited ability to modify the original Shady Grove Road design that runs through the

community, the ability to deploy automated, continuous compliance enforcement is seen as one critical tool to changing motorist behavior and reducing speed through the neighborhood. Speed monitoring systems together with other County and State Vision Zero measures will improve safety for vehicular and non-vehicular roadway users. We are therefore in favor of and strongly support HB1173 and look forward to its speedy passage and the future deployment in our Derwood neighborhood.

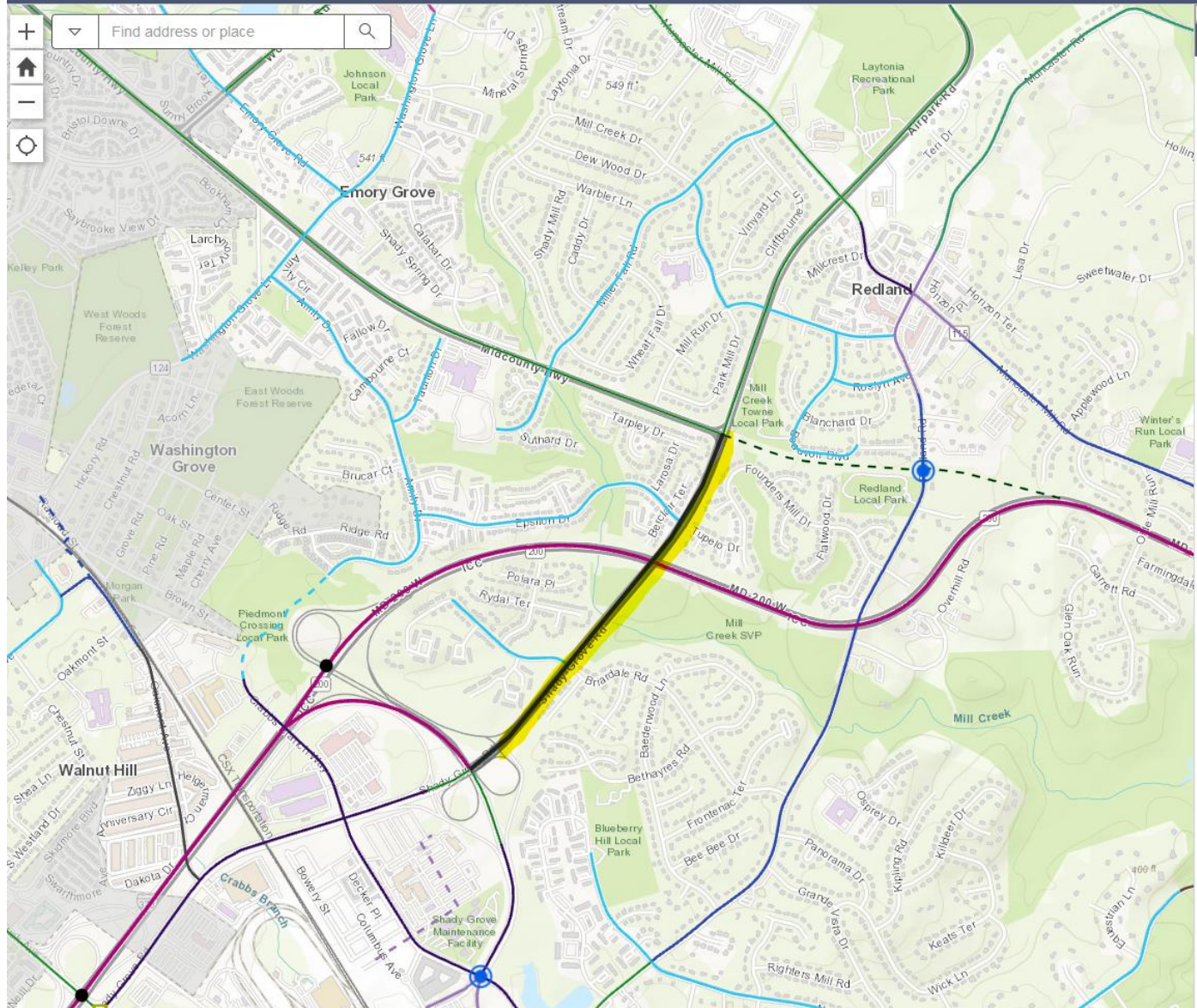
Through community advocacy to address the safety concerns, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) recently implemented a speed limit reduction to 40 mph along the neighborhood section of Shady Grove Road. This measure is expected to help improve road safety. However, during low traffic periods and late at night when there is minimal traffic volume on Shady Grove Road there is still a tendency for some drivers to 'drag-race' and to travel at speeds well in excess of 55 mph. While there has been occasional targeted enforcement by the County's Police Department to address the complaint, a more resource-efficient and effective, continuous speed monitoring presence, as would be facilitated by the passage of HB1173, is needed.

On behalf of the Derwood Neighborhood Community Alliance, I do respectfully implore the Committee to support the passage of HB1173 that will allow for more continuous speed compliance monitoring and make high-risk roadways in Montgomery County, such as Shady Grove Road, safer for all. Thank you.

Derwood Neighborhood Community Alliance (DNCA)

The DNCA is a subgroup of the Derwood Neighborhood residents, many with decades of residency, situated along the Shady Grove Road corridor from I-370 to Midcounty Highway (M-83) who have been working with Councilwoman Luedtke's Office, State Representatives and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Vision Zero Planning, and Police Department, to address issues of traffic and safety along the neighborhood roads.

Master Plan of Highways and Transitways



WELCOME INFO CLASSIFICATION

Shady Grove Rd

From Location: I-370
To Location: Mid County Hwy
Current Classification: Boulevard

Planned Lanes: 6
Designated Transit Lanes: 0
Traffic Lanes: 6

Transitway Type: n/a
Transitway Name: n/a
Right-of-Way (feet): 120
Master Planned Target Speed (mph): 30
Master Plan: Shady Grove Minor Amendment (2021)

Source: <https://www.mcatlas.org/mpoht/>