

Name: Communication between Eva Patrone and Kyle Lukacs (DOT)

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Email:

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Comments:

Question: Given that DOT, parks and planning, and MoCo planning board all prefer the end of Brown St for the Washington Grove Connector, what is the likelihood that the county would consider another option if the town votes for a different route? Is it possible they would make the connection at the end of Brown anyway? Or cancel the project altogether?

That is a tough question! We have worked with the Town and residents through the entire study process thus far and based on the public input from the two public meetings and the online survey, historical documents, and our analysis of the environmental impacts and costs for each option, we (MCDOT, Parks, Planning, and Planning Board) believe that the Brown Street connection is the best alternative.

We are open to and interested in the findings the Task Force makes and will consider the implications. I am confident that our study to date has analyzed the facts and public input and selected the best alternative to advance based on that knowledge. However, making the connection to Brown St involves land within the Town of Washington Grove, so the Town is an important partner here and if the Town were to vote against the Brown Street connection then it would be more difficult to build. To take that a step further, I'm not sure how the Planning Board or County Council would feel about selecting and funding the second best alternative (from MCDOT, Parks, Planning, and Planning Board perspective) that is more environmentally impactful and more costly as a result of the Town's decision. There is certainly a possibility that the project is delayed or put on hold if something like that were to happen given the logistics.

It's also worth noting that the Brown Street and Railroad Street connections could both be built. The first 90% or so of the Brown Street connection is the same as the Railroad Street connection. The Railroad Street connection could be constructed at a later date or as part of a project to improve Railroad Street or as a standalone project. Just something that might be worth mentioning.