

Recommendation to Collaborate with Neighboring Communities Regarding the Shared Use Path

Requires council action

Begin discussions with representatives from Emory Grove, the city of Gaithersburg, and Washington Grove regarding the shared-use pathway (pedestrian and bike pathway) to demonstrate an interest in working together and negotiating with the county in solidarity.

Background

For several years the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), Division of Transportation Engineering has been evaluating two master-planned connections simultaneously, the Washington Grove Connector – Crabbs Branch Way Extension Project. These projects would help connect the terminus of Crabbs Branch Way to the Town of Washington Grove and the City of Gaithersburg. These projects would also improve connectivity to the Shady Grove Metro as well as retail and commercial areas south of MD-200 / I-370.

The Crabbs Branch Way Extension Project would create a road and shared-use path connection between Crabbs Branch Way and Amity Drive. This project is funded through the Facility Planning Program and is only funded for planning, not for design or construction.

The Washington Grove Connector Project would create a shared-use path connection, no road, between Crabbs Branch Way and the Town of Washington Grove. This path could potentially connect to Amity Drive, Brown Street, Railroad Street, or other areas. This project is funded through the Bikeways Minor Program and is funded for planning, design, and construction.

Recently the projects were separated and negotiations commenced between the Town of Washington Grove and MCDOT for the construction of the Washington Grove Connector Project. (see attached mayor's letter). There was consensus on the route. (see attached map).

Unfortunately, the funding was not included in the MCDOT 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. Negotiations will continue.

Importance

This recommendation furthers the promise in the Washington Grove Resolution, Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past and Committing to an Equitable and Inclusive Future to support ties with neighboring communities and consider their welfare and the impact our policies or decisions will have on them.

Purpose

- To share the results of the Washington Grove – MCDOT negotiations
- To share visions of the shared-use pathway for the area

- To find common interests
- To strategize ways to support each other's visions, especially when negotiating with the county

Suggested Actions

- The mayor sends an invitation to all parties stating the above purpose.
- The discussion results in an identified consensus that:
 - delineates ways that the group will continue to support each other. For example, if there is a change in the shared-use pathway plan for one party, they will notify the other parties.
 - designates a contact person and a back-up contact person
 - set dates for periodic check-ins to determine if action is needed to further agreed-upon strategies.