

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom –



Virtual Special Meeting September 19, 2022

Members Present:

Laura Van Etten, Chair

Barbara Hoover

Dan Seamans

Bob Wilbur

Anne Davies

Charles Mess

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Darcy Buckley

Guests:

Jamey Pratt, Montgomery Planning Department

Caroline Taylor, Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Leslie Saville, Member Emeritus and Heritage Montgomery

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Background:

The County Executive proposed updates to County Code Chapter 49, Streets and Roads, seeking language consistent with the Complete Streets Guide Approved by the County Council in early 2021. Committee members became aware of the Code updating process after the regular August 2022 meeting, and because the Public Hearing was scheduled prior to the Committee's September meeting, it was necessary to call a Special Meeting if the Committee wished to have proposals included.

Staff and members worked together to assure Open Meetings Act procedures were met. The proposed meeting was announced on the RRAC's website two days in advance while the Committee members tried to find a time when the majority of members could attend. The agenda was posted more than 24 hours before the meeting, and outreach efforts were made to repeat meeting attendees.

Action Item:

Consider Amendments to Chapter 49, Streets and Roads

The Committee considered proposed amendments to the Code regarding Rustic Roads provisions. A briefing document with background and items for discussion was prepared and distributed, because the Committee had not previously been briefed on the amendments.

The special meeting was necessary to meet County Council deadlines for testimony and submission of statements. The County Code is currently being amended to make County Code consistent with the Complete Streets Design Guide approved by the County Council in February 2021. Discussion covered views of members about the possible need for additional members, what qualifications those members should have, the number of farmer members on the Committee, and whether the income requirements for farmer members is appropriate. Technical and language corrections were also recommended. The Committee approved requesting

the following Code changes by the County Council, and approved submitting written and verbal testimony on these matters:

- add Rustic and Exceptional Rustic Roads to the section on Country Roads calling for maximum target speeds of 20-35 mph
- replace the word “accident” with the word “crash” in the sentence regarding the criteria roads must meet to be added to the Rustic Roads Program
- increase Committee membership from 7 to 9 members
- ask that the additional member qualifications be reflected as “representing the geographical, social, economic, recreational and cultural concerns of the residents of the County”
- delete the words “earning 50 percent or more of their income from farming” from the membership requirements for farmers

Adjourn

1:00 p.m