

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

7:00-9:00 PM



Meeting Notes - Virtual Meeting January 30, 2025

Attendees:

Members:

Sandy Heiler
Mason Hopkins
Barbara Hoover
Aren Johnson
Tom Linthicum
Jamey Pratt, non-voting
Billy Willard

Absent Members:

Elena Shuvalov
Richard Thoms

Guests:

Brian Copley, MCDOT
Florence Dwyer, Montgomery County Planning Department
Danny King, MCDOT
Frank Kingsley, MCDOT
Nick Magliato
Michael Mercado
Mike Nesselt, MCDOT
John Stuart
Jane Thompson, Member Emeritus
Laura Van Etten, Member Emeritus

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Chris Van Alstyne

MCDOT Executive Administrative Aide: Tawanda Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Action Items

Approval of Agenda

Committee members approved agenda.

Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2024, Meeting

Committee members approved minutes.

Discussion Items

Upcoming Bridge Projects – Gregg Road Bridge and Cattail Road Bridge

Gregg Road Bridge M0119 built in 1958. Project will be replacing beams and deck only. Because of the width cannot do a staged improvement, this will result in road closure for approximately 3 months. There will be no widening or tree loss with the project.

Laura Van Etten suggests getting a new copy of the Bridge Book. Brian has a draft that he will get published. Will get updates from Laura regarding bridges and road designations.

Further discussion revealed interest to widen the road 1-2 feet and to potentially push back the guardrail on these types of roads. There will be a virtual public meeting in March to take comment from the surrounding community.

Motion passed to postpone decision on Gregg Road bridge until next RRAC meeting.

Cattail Road Bridge M0491 built in 1975. Replacement bridge. The project will update the road profile to be raised by 6 inches. No widening of the roadway is proposed at any point. They will install a 3-cell concrete box culvert to resist flooding. As of now the specs will support at least 80,000 lbs. Project to begin in 2 years.

Motion to approve design as submitted with guardrails pushed back four inches on each side while reserving the 20 ft. wide clear road cross section.

20800 Mouth of Monocacy Road – Farm access road permit for farm field equipment (no development proposed)

Presented by Nick Magliato. The goal is to create a pathway between the two ag fields on either side of the road. This will help move equipment around without having to dismantle apparatuses. Motion approved the plans as presented to the committee. Chris to send email to DPS in support of application.

Discussion of Rustic Road Speeds

The topic was postponed to a later meeting.

Discussion of Road Pavement Width

Discussion focused on issues related to road width. Existing widths often are too narrow to accommodate large farming equipment. However, as noted often times the narrow width of the road is an important feature defined in the Rustic Roads plan. Some discussion pointed to the need instead for improved shoulders. RR regulations provide flexibility to widen road for passage of farm equipment. Overall, this points to the need for more case-by-case analysis of rustic roads to determine when and where limited widening is appropriate.

Discussion of Roadside Vegetation

Send images or requests to Michael Nesselt at MCDOT for vegetation concerns. Discussed getting a small group of roads to partner with MCDOT to review for foliage improvements. Billy Willard, Mason Hopkins, and Tom Linthicum to makeup the subcommittee.

Schedule for future meetings (number, months)

RRAC Chair and Chris Van Alstyne to get together to create schedule and share with the group.

Revisit Discussion of Temporary Signs

Postpone topic to another meeting.

Discuss future agenda items

Mason Hopkins asked for review of a portion of River Road described as gravel/dirt, to discuss tar and chip.

Line of sight on Glen Road (Joel Albert, resident) – issue unresolved from 2 years ago – Laura Van Etten

Confirm date of next meeting

Next meeting at 7:00 pm on February 27, 2025.

Planning Department Updates:

550 Bryant’s Nursery Road – proposed church, concept plan stage. Plans to be shared when available as part of future plan submission and discussion to be scheduled with the applicant to provide comment.

MCDOT Updates

Open Engineer Position

Will be posted next week.

Road sign tracking status

Volunteers needed in Darnestown/Poolesville area to review for road signage. Chris Van Alstyne to email updated list to the RRAC.

RRAC Advertisements

Will have 500 flyers printed next month. Posters to be updated with notes from the committee.

Target Speed Limit Legislation Chris advised the committee of a County Delegation-sponsored bill in the MD House which MCDOT supports that would allow speed limits to be lowered without a speed study. HB0963, MC 1-25.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.