



Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee
Meeting: September 16, 2025
Location: East County Regional Services Center
(3300 Briggs Chaney Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904)

Members Present

Randy Nittoli (Chair)
Amy Medd (Vice Chair)
Leianne Clements
Ali Azimi Bolourian (Secretary)
James Meehan
Jessica Sidar Roth
Kathleen Wheeler

Other Attendees:

Jamey Pratt – Montgomery County Planning Department
Ayanna King – Program Manager of the MoCo East County Regional Services Center
Jewru Bandeh – Director of the MoCo East County Regional Services Center
Katherine Mencarini – Acting Regulatory Supervisor, East County Planning Division
Cicero Salles – White Oak Planning Manager, MoCo Office of the County Executive

The meeting came to order at 7:12 p.m.

Meeting Agenda and Discussion

1. Approval of Minutes (July 15, 2025)

The Chair, Randy Nittoli, opened the meeting, welcoming attendees to the first in-person meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were presented. The motion to accept the minutes was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2. Operating Budget Forums and Advocacy

Katherine Mencarini mentioned that the upcoming operating budget forums (Notes 1 and 2) are the appropriate time to advocate for transit, which is an operating budget cost, not a capital improvement. Jewru Bandeh provided details on the East County operating budget forum conversation with the County Executive, the Office of Management and Budget, and the East County Citizens Advisory Board, scheduled for October 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the White Oak community recreation center (see Notes 1). Jewru encouraged committee members to attend this forum, which covers critical operating budget items such as sidewalks, potholes, transportation, mass transit,



environmental issues, police, and schools. Attendees were encouraged to organize, identify community needs, and speak out, noting that those who speak the loudest are typically heard. The meeting can be attended virtually. Jewru also mentioned other specific forums for senior citizens, PTAs, and different diaspora communities.

3. Planning and Transportation Updates

Flex Route 918 Elimination Update: Katherine reported that she reached out to MCDOT regarding the planning route for Flex Route 918 and was advised that they are planning to launch this fall and will reach out when ready. Jessica Sidar Roth noted the infrastructure improvements (crosswalks, curb ramps) being done up New Hampshire Avenue through Colesville and Cloverly, questioning the lack of bus stops despite the construction. Jewru Bandeh and Cicero Salles agreed to follow up with DLT regarding the coordination between infrastructure investment and transit services.

Crosswalk at Ashton Club Way & Hidden Garden Lane (MD-108): Katherine reported contacting Aaron Krout in Councilmember Dawn Luedtke's office for an update. The design for the rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) and crosswalk improvements is expected to take about five to six months from May. The installation of short-term improvements (RRFB and crosswalk) should follow the design completion by the end of 2025 or early 2026. This project is moving faster because it is focused on safety and has a more limited scope than the larger MD-108 design project.

MD-108 from MD-650 to Norwood Road Improvements: Cicero confirmed that State Highway Administration (SHA) is performing design work for MD-108 from Norwood to New Hampshire, which includes intersection improvements and a shared-use path. The design completion is anticipated for the fall of 2026. Funding for the actual construction must be secured separately by the state delegation. Surveying activities noted by Jessica near 7-Eleven and Sandy Spring Bank (soon to be Atlantic Union Bank) are likely related to this design work to establish property limits, especially given that some properties along MD-108 may own into the road, complicating right-of-way acquisition.

4. Speeding and Safety Concerns on MD-650 (New Hampshire Ave) and MD-108 Intersection

The committee raised ongoing concerns about speeding, congestion, and safety at the MD-108 and New Hampshire Avenue intersection.

Lack of Police Enforcement Follow-up: James Meehan noted that two months after the last meeting, there has been no significant police enforcement visibility, aside from two motorcycle police officers stationed near Sherwood Elementary School for a limited time. James provided the contact information for Sergeant Ijeoma Enendu¹ at District 4

¹ <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/commissioners/i-enendu.html>



(240-773-5581), who is the supervisor of operations under Commander Smith, but noted she has not returned calls.

Real-World Impact of Traffic: Jessica shared an anecdote about a house on New Hampshire Avenue (17712 New Hampshire Ave) that has been difficult to sell because potential buyers were uncomfortable pulling out of the neighborhood due to fast-moving traffic.

Immediate Mitigation Suggestions: Randy Nittoli argued for simple, inexpensive, and effective fixes that could be implemented before the Fall 2026 design completion. Specifically, he suggested:

- Adding lane markings to indicate turn-only or straight/turn lanes on MD-108, noting that few major intersection roads lack such basic markings.
- Utilizing flashing speed notification signs, which are owned by the county police and can be moved weekly.

Police/County Follow-up: Jewru Bandeh committed to following up immediately with Commander Smith or the traffic sergeant regarding enforcement. He also offered to coordinate an on-site visit with staff, police, and DOT to take photos and add momentum to the concerns.

Action on Line Markings: Cicero asked Randy to send an email detailing all traffic concerns, particularly the lack of line markings, and he will forward it to Derek Gunn, the head of SHA District 3.

5. Any Other Business and Action Items

The committee discussed strategies for increased advocacy:

- **Sandy Spring Civic Association (SSCA):** Kathleen Wheeler and Jewru Bandeh encouraged members to join or work with the SSCA, which is a long-standing, respected group that routinely engages elected officials and provides a louder voice for community priorities.
- **Contacting Officials:** Members were encouraged to write individually to elected officials, including County Executive Marc Elrich and Councilmember Dawn Luedtke. They were also advised to contact the SHA District 3 Traffic Team member who goes by the initials S.K..
- **November Meeting Guest:** The committee decided to invite the relevant SHA representative (District 3) or Director Joe Morgan to the November meeting to give an update on the progress and process timeline. Jessica Sidar Roth offered to make the invitation. Amy Medd suggested the November meeting be held



virtually so people outside the area, like the SHA staff, would be more likely to attend.

- **Operating Budget Forum:** Members confirmed the importance of attending the October 6 East County Operating Budget Forum to raise transportation and safety concerns (see Notes 1).

Action Items Summary

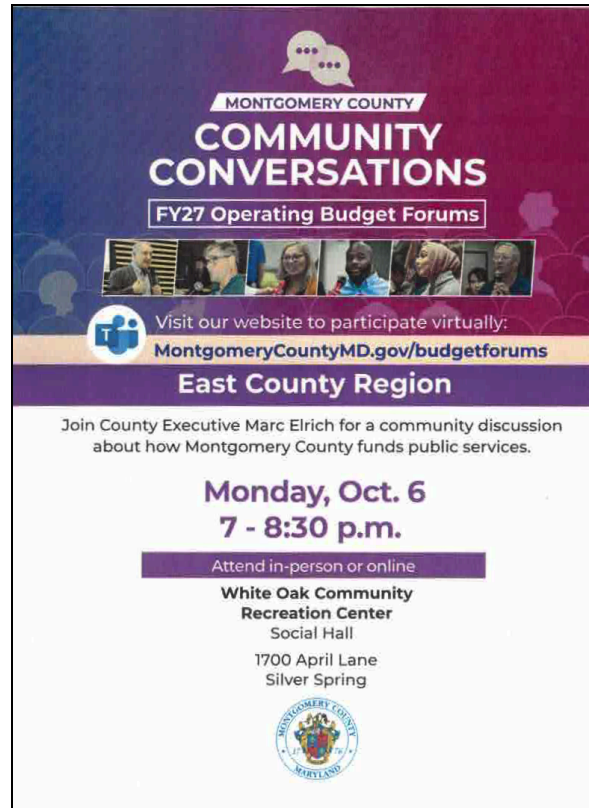
- **Randy Nittoli** to compile a comprehensive list of specific traffic issues, including the lack of lane markings, and email it to Cicero Salles.
- **Cicero Salles** to prepare a spreadsheet of issues and forward the information to Derek Gunn at SHA District 3, asking for comprehensive updates on all projects.
- **Jessica Sidar Roth** to contact the SHA District 3 Traffic Team regarding the status of projects and invite them to attend the November meeting.
- **Jewru Bandeh's** office will follow up with Commander Smith/District 4 Police regarding enforcement and organize an on-site assessment (including photos) of the problem areas on New Hampshire Avenue and MD-108.
- **Members** to prepare to attend or submit written comments to the October 6 Operating Budget Forum. (See Notes 1)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Notes 1



FY27 Operating Budget Forum: East County

When:

Monday, October 6, 2025
7 – 8:30 p.m.

Where:

White Oak Community Recreation Center
1700 April Lane, Silver Spring (White Oak), MD 20904

Link:

[FY27 Operating Budget Forum: East County](#)

includes Microsoft Teams link for online attendees.



Notes 2

FY27 Operating Budget Forum: Mid County

When:

Monday, October 13, 2025
7 – 8:30 p.m.

Where:

Wheaton Community Recreation Center,
11701 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, 20902

Link:

[FY27 Operating Budget Forum: Mid County](#)

includes Microsoft Teams link for online attendees.

