

The following is a memo from the the Darnestown Civic Association Roads Task Force to Montgomery County Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations. The intent of the memo was to capture the points we've heard from the community over the last eleven months.

- Memo was sent on November 20, 2023
- The County's responses *(in red below)* were received in late December 2023

### Seneca Road & Esworthy Road intersection Improvements

We want safer, more efficient roads.

We want property owners' interests to be protected.

We want all voices to be heard.

Darnestown is a rural, rustic, heritage community. We are in the heirloom crescent of Montgomery County.

- Please provide a comparison between the impervious surface profile for the current and proposed intersection. **New = 4,629 sf, Rem = 1,969 sf, change = +2,660 sf**
- There are two low-lying lots on the southeast section of the intersection. Run off and ponding are a current concern. Any improvements should improve those conditions. **Project improvements do increase impervious area. Roadside ditches and a new Bio-Swale are proposed to treat runoff. Increase to impervious area is minimal and is not expected to effect downstream drainage areas.**
- Please describe the expected impacts to abutting properties during and after the project. Please include any required landscaping removal, replacement, and improvement. **Will be existing tree removal due to construction. Landscaping and tree replacement will be proposed to fullest extent possible.**
- Please provide a cost benefit overview of the alternative solutions considered. Please list alternatives not considered. **T-intersection evaluated, but Stopping Sight Distance (SSD) not met. Would have significant costs to meet SSD requirements.**
- Please share the plans for other Y-Type intersections in the county and their traffic volumes. **N/A**
- Please elaborate on why this intersection was chosen for spot improvement. It is our fourth highest priority of the eight major intersections in Darnestown. **Project initiated based on citizen complaints regarding safety.**
- Please share the expected cost of the project. **\$500K**
- Please share concerns raised by emergency response, inclement weather treatment, and ongoing maintenance departments. **Not aware of any concerns**
- Please detail how the proposed intersection will make the road safer for bicyclists. **The bicycle safety issue has yet to be addressed.**

- Please share the project timeline, construction impacts, and planned mitigations. **The construction impacts and mitigation details will be available at the later design stage.**
- Please detail the delineation between County and State responsibilities during construction and for ongoing maintenance. **Intersection falls under SHA responsibility for maintenance. Construction to be done by MCDOT.**
- We would like to meet for an engineering session with your design leads. Our lead engineer has professional road design background and has served as Chair and Engineer of the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. **Set up a time to discuss** [*Note: this is tentatively planned for April 2024*]
- Exit curbing at the roundabout at Turkey Foot Road and Travilah Road causes vehicle exiting the circle onto Turkey Foot to frequently cross over the double yellow line into oncoming traffic.
- The roundabout at Turkey Foot Road and Travilah Road is unattractive seems out of place.
- We have anecdotal evidence of people transiting against traffic at the roundabout at Turkey Foot Road and Travilah Road. Please describe the monitoring and enforcement solutions to deter such behavior.

The Esworthy family in Darnestown dates to 1850. We embrace our heritage. We have seen roundabout designs that are context sensitive and others which look quite out of place. Staying connected to our community's rural, rustic, and heritage characteristics is vitally important. Road improvements need to be designed in a context sensitive manner.

- We want to explore incorporating design elements which accommodate appropriate hardscaping, heritage elements (statue, signage, markers) native species low height landscaping, screening, and streetscape features at inception and in the future. The limitations imposed by visibility specifications, while restrictive, do not rule out an attractive, context sensitive design. **Design elements will be dictated by what will be allowed by SHA per their standards and guidelines.**

We look forward to your responses and the opportunity to meet with your engineering design team. Thank you.

**Scott Plumer**

Staff Assistant for Research and Strategic Projects

Darnestown Civic Association Executive Board and Committees



**Darnestown Civic Association**

[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

**Participant Vision Zero Darnestown, a project of the Darnestown Civic Association's Roads Task Force. We intend to eliminate vehicle involved death and severe injury while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.**

**PLEASE**

Slow Down

Put the Phone Down

Be Courteous

Be Visible