



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Department of Engineering & Construction Management

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Charles F. Nipe, Division Director
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July 20, 2021

RE: MONROVIA EAST-WEST CONNECTOR PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes from the May 26, 2021 Public Meeting

The purpose of this mailing is to provide the attached meeting minutes from the May 26, 2021 public meeting. Thank you to all of those who attended and provided questions and comments.

For more information, please contact Sean McEvilly, Acting Project Manager, at 301-600-1806 or email smcevilly@FrederickCountyMD.gov. Thank you for taking the time to attend the informational public meeting of this road improvement project.

By: Frederick County Division of Public Works
Department of Engineering and Construction Management
Office of Transportation Engineering

Monrovia East-West Connector Project Public Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday, May 26, 2021, staff from the Frederick County Office of Transportation Engineering conducted a public meeting to discuss the preliminary design of the Monrovia East-West Connector Road project.

The meeting began at approximately 7:00 pm and was held virtually via WebEx and also through a dial-in phone number. There were approximately 40 people in attendance from the community. The following were in attendance representing Frederick County government:

Division of Public Works:

Amanda Radcliffe, P.E., Engineer III, presenter (301) 600-1959
Robert Shen, P.E., Deputy Director (301) 600-2928
Michelle Hurney, Acquisitions (301) 600-3510
Sean McEvilly, P.E., Acting Project Manager (301) 600-1806
Emilee Blackburn, County Web Moderator (301) 600-1028

Questions regarding the Monrovia East-West Connector project should be directed to Sean McEvilly, Office of Transportation Engineering, at (301) 600-1806 or email smcevilly@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a project overview, construction schedule, and opportunity for the public to ask questions and voice any concerns.

Amanda Radcliffe opened with introductions of the project team, followed by a slideshow presentation including the project contact information, project overview, proposed alignment, typical sections, design rendering graphics and project schedule. After the presentation was completed, time was allowed for questions and general comments from all in attendance.

Details on the project and a recording of the public meeting can be found online at:

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8189/Monrovia-East-West-Connector>

Questions and Comments

The summary of questions and comments includes questions discussed at the Public Meeting, as well as any questions or comments received before or after the meeting. Questions that pertained to the same issue were grouped together and may have been edited or reworded for clarity. Answers follow each question.

A. General Project Questions/Concerns

1. What is the proposed location of the connector road intersection with Route 75?

The connector road is proposed to intersect Route 75 directly across from the Bush Creek Church property, approximately 1,000 feet north of the Archer Circle intersection (and approximately 300 feet north of the church entrance driveway).

2. Will a traffic signal be installed at the intersection of the proposed connector road with Route 75?

It is not expected that a signal will be warranted, but since Route 75 is a State Route this will be discussed with Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). If a signal is not currently warranted, it may still be installed at a later date if/when it is warranted based on future conditions such as increased traffic volumes or safety concerns.

3. Once the connector road is open, how will vehicles be discouraged from continued use of the older, unimproved section of Ed McClain Road? Will the old section of Ed McClain Road be closed to through traffic during or after construction of the connector?

The design team is currently considering options to limit the continued through-traffic usage of Ed McClain Road, and will consider such options as the design progresses.

4. Will the existing (old) section of Ed McClain Road be renamed? What will the proposed connector road be named?

County personnel are currently discussing the naming of the old and new roads. As part of the County's open/close/alter process, public input will be solicited so that resident preferences are considered.

5. Will left turns from Landsdale be permitted onto Ed McClain Road?

Left turns will be permitted from Landsdale Blvd., Monrovia Blvd. and Emerald Crown Drive onto Ed McClain Road once construction of the connector road is complete and open to traffic.

6. In order to prevent trucks from getting stuck and/or turning around at the railroad bridge, what (additional) measures will be taken to stop oversize trucks from using Ed McLain Road and/or Route 75 north from Route 80?

Route 75 and Route 80 are State Routes and subject to MDOT SHA (State) regulations, including signage and vehicle restrictions. Currently both roads include warning signs regarding the low bridge height of the railroad bridge over Route 75. MDOT SHA will

continue to participate in the design review process of this project, and will have the opportunity to recommend signage or other restrictions on State Routes 75 & 80.

7. Was a direct connection to I-70 from the Landsdale community considered instead of a connection to Route 75?

The roadway connector to Route 75 was agreed upon during the subdivision approval process for the Landsdale community. Currently the I-70/Meadow Road/MD 144 interchange is being upgraded from a partial to a full interchange. Frederick County is not aware of any other planned I-70 interchanges in the area. New interchanges require many years for planning, design, permitting and construction, and such a connection would not feasibly be open in the near future. A direct connection to Route 75 is a more practical solution to the immediate needs of the community.

8. Have property owners been contacted about impacts to their land and/or acquisition of Right of Way for this project?

Although property owners have been notified about the connector road project, Right of Way needs and impacts have not yet been developed to a sufficient level to determine specific impacts to individual properties. As the design progresses, individual meetings will be held with affected property owners to discuss any impacts or Right of Way needs.

9. What are the funding amounts from the County, State, and private developers?

Currently the project is expected to be funded by approximately 59% (\$3.6 million) from private developer contribution, with the remaining 41% (\$2.5 million) funded by Frederick County for a total of \$6.1 million in accordance with the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget. No State funding is expected.

Per Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), a future elementary school site is planned at the southwest corner of Monrovia Blvd and Ed McClain Road. This new school will replace the existing Green Valley Elementary School just east of the Route 75 and Route 80 intersection. Funding for this project hasn't been awarded yet so construction dates are not yet known, but the replacement school could open as early as the fall of 2025.

10. Will construction of the new school be taken into consideration for the proposed connector road design, including the increase in traffic?

The proposed school location is beyond the limits of the connector road project, so no modifications to the connector road design are anticipated for accommodation of the school construction. However, the design team will review the proposed school design to assess any possible traffic impacts to the connector road project.

11. What is the timing of construction of the connector road vs. completion of the school construction?

The connector road construction is expected to begin in summer of 2022 and be completed in the winter of 2023. As stated above, the proposed school may open as early as the fall of 2025.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Public Meeting. We appreciate you taking the time to participate in the design process by providing your questions and comments.

As always, please feel free to contact Sean McEvilly regarding this project, (301) 600-1806 or smcevilly@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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