



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
AND TRANSPORTATION

Douglas M. Duncan  
County Executive

Albert J. Genetti, Jr., P.E.  
Director

December 5, 2003

Mr. Charles R. Loehr, Director  
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning  
The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

Dear Mr. Loehr:

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) is setting the following policy regarding the placement of trees along the roadways it designs. This policy supercedes what is shown on the existing design standards. This is applicable for closed-section arterial and major highways. This policy is effective immediately on new projects started after the date of this letter.

For posted speeds  $\leq$  35 MPH, trees will be placed in the panel between the curb and the sidewalk;

For posted speeds  $\geq$  40 MPH, trees will be placed behind the sidewalk.

The determination of the design speed and the posted speed will be made during the facility planning stage of the project. Once the posted speed is determined, the placement of the trees, streetlights, and signs will be coordinated to allow the functionality of all the components of the project. For safety of both the roadway users and pedestrians, it is imperative that we incorporate these components into our projects to get appropriate signage, lighting, and aesthetically pleasing projects. In implementing this policy, it is anticipated that DPWT and the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission will continue to work together to implement the projects outlined in the Master Plan to better serve the citizens of the county.

If you have any questions, please call Holger Serrano at 240-777-7235.

Sincerely,

Albert J. Genetti, Jr.  
Director

AJG:ahe

cc: Edgar Gonzalez  
Mike Hoyt  
Bruce Johnston  
Al Roshdieh  
Emil Wolanin  
Carolyn Biggins  
Holger Serrano

19

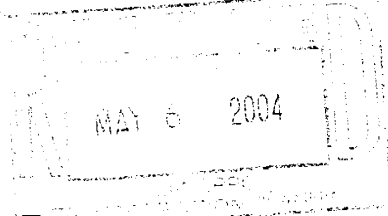
Office of the Director



# MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 www.mvf.org



May 3, 2004

Dan Hardy, Transportation Supervisor  
Montgomery County Dept. of Park & Planning  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

Dear Mr. Hardy:

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery Village Foundation (MVF) Board of Directors and four of the primarily impacted Village Homes Corporations – Whetstone, East Village, Northgate, and Patton Ridge -- to affirm our community's strong support of advancing the Goshen Road widening Alternate 8, *including median shrubbery*, to the final design phase. With its four-lane maximum road surface and narrower 100-108-foot right-of-way, Alternate 8 offers an increased buffer between the roadway and adjacent properties, lower property acquisition costs, and a more consistent right-of-way width along the project length.

Jeri Cauthorn, Goshen Road South Project Manager, has indicated that Alternate 8 was chosen as the *final design concept*, although the county intends to potentially use a wider right-of-way (up to 120 feet) at certain points along the roadway where: (1) the County already owns the right-of-way, and (2) using the wider right-of-way would not impact any residences. We reiterate our desire to minimize the impact on residences along the roadway, especially the twelve Whetstone residences abutting the right-of-way.

Although the Park & Planning staff recommends that only trees be planted in median strips, we again ask for your support for shrubbery rather than trees for Goshen Road. Our support for a posted speed limit of 40 mph presumes the use of shrubbery in the narrower median of Alternate 8. Like trees, shrubs will enhance the landscape. Unlike trees, shrubs can potentially absorb some of the impact if hit by a car, and can shield oncoming traffic from headlight glare.

For many years, median shrubbery has worked very well on River Road inside the beltway. The shrubbery there has long been noted for its attractiveness, its safety features, and its cost benefits. The county saves money as it is significantly less expensive to maintain shrubbery than trees— particularly following a severe storm, a hurricane, or the discovery of a diseased tree. The River Road median shrubbery is a model that can work well on Goshen Road.

The Montgomery Village community worked hard to reach a consensus on this project, including the community-sponsored initiative, Alternate 8. During the past year, we held numerous meetings and discussions, coordinating closely with Jeri Cauthorn. Ms. Cauthorn was very helpful in explaining to our community the process, the alternatives, and impacts, as well as answering our many questions, and remaining open to input from the community.

We now ask for your help by recommending that the Planning Board approve the use of median shrubbery for the Goshen Road South Project. We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lon Hamann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Lon Hamann, President  
MVF Board of Directors

cc: Derick Berlage, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Richard Hawthorne, Acting Chief, Development Review Division,  
Dept. of Park & Planning  
Larry Cole, Planner Coordinator, Transportation Planning Division,  
Dept. of Park & Planning  
Wynn E. Witthans, Planner Coordinator, Development Rev. Division  
Dept. of Park & Planning  
Catherine Matthews, Director, Upcounty Regional Services Center  
MVF Presidents' Council



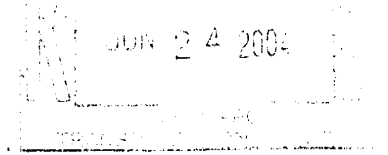
# EAST VILLAGE HOMES CORPORATION

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 [www.mvf.org](http://www.mvf.org)

June 22, 2004

Jeff Zyontz, Chief  
County-wide Planning  
Dept. of Park and Planning  
8787 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



Dear Mr. Zyontz:

I am writing on behalf of the East Village Homes Corporation Board of Directors, the elected representatives of the 1389 households in the East Village community of Montgomery Village with regard to the proposed widening of Goshen Road.

The East Village community continues to support the expansion of Goshen Road to four lanes with a narrow median per the parameters of Alternate 8, with the median to be planted with either shrubbery or trees, and with the road to have a maximum posted speed limit of 40 MPH. We feel that this configuration offers the best compromise for our residents, providing them with needed roads while locating the lanes as far as possible from the homes they will most greatly impact in a negative way. Please note this opinion for the record.

We look forward to working with the county as the Goshen Road expansion process continues. Please continue to inform us as expansion proceeds. If you have any questions about this or other issues, please contact our community manager at 301-948-0110 X312 or by email at [awinegar@mvf.org](mailto:awinegar@mvf.org).

Sincerely,

Terry O. Grady, President  
East Village Homes Corporation Board of Directors

cc: Derick Berlage, Chairman, Planning Board  
Richard Hawthorne, Acting Division Chief, Development Review Division  
Dan Hardy, Transportation Planner



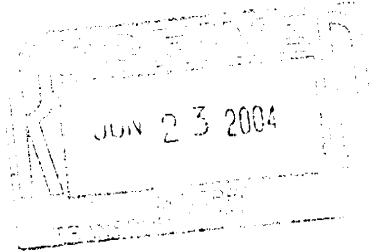
# WHETSTONE HOMES CORPORATION

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 www.mvf.org

June 22, 2004

Jeff Zyontz, Chief  
County-wide Planning  
Dept. of Park and Planning  
8787 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



Dear Mr. Zyontz:

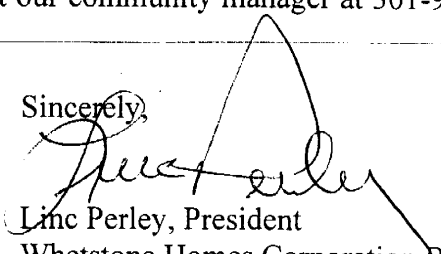
I am writing on behalf of the Whetstone Homes Corporation Board of Directors, the elected representatives of the 447 households in the Whetstone community of Montgomery Village with regard to the proposed widening of Goshen Road.

Goshen Road is immediately adjacent to our community and very near a number of rear yards. It has a direct impact on our residents both in a positive way through its service as a major transportation route, and negatively because of its proximity to our residential neighborhood.

The Whetstone community continues to support the expansion of Goshen Road to four lanes with a narrow median per the parameters of Alternate 8, with the median to be planted with either shrubbery or trees, and with the road to have a maximum posted speed limit of 40 MPH. We feel that this configuration offers the best compromise for our residents, providing them with needed roads while locating the lanes as far as possible from the homes they will most greatly impact in a negative way. Please note this opinion for the record.

We look forward to working with the county as the Goshen Road expansion process continues. Please continue to inform us as expansion proceeds. If you have any questions about this or other issues, please contact our community manager at 301-948-0110 X312 or by email at [awinegar@mvf.org](mailto:awinegar@mvf.org).

Sincerely,



Linc Perley, President

Whetstone Homes Corporation Board of Directors

cc: Derick Berlage, Chairman, Planning Board  
Richard Hawthorne, Acting Division Chief, Development Review Division  
Dan Hardy, Transportation Planner



# NORTHGATE HOMES CORPORATION

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071  
[www.mvf.org](http://www.mvf.org)

June 13, 2003

**VIA EMAIL & FACSIMILE:** Jeri.Cauthorn@montgomerycountymd.gov F: 240-777-7178

Ms. Jeri Cauthorn  
Project Manager  
Montgomery County Dept. of Public Works & Transportation  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Cauthorn:

On behalf of the Northgate Homes Corporation Board of Directors, representing over 3000 residents within Montgomery Village, I am writing to convey our position regarding the proposed widening of Goshen Road. Northgate has a substantial subdivision within one block of Goshen Road, so it's widening impacts our community.

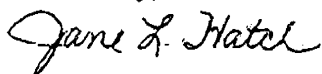
Northgate recognizes the need to widen Goshen Road to four lanes. We are adamantly opposed to any option that would either directly widen, or provide for the option of widening, Goshen Road to 6 lanes. We ask that any widening occur in such a way so as to minimally impact adjacent homeowners.

Our choice for four lanes is a slight modification of Alternate 4. Northgate prefers that the right of way be limited to a maximum width of 91 feet and that the median not contain trees, but rather dense shrubbery. The desire for the shrubbery is to reduce traffic noise, help control the lights of on-coming traffic, provide for a barrier for stopping vehicles that might inadvertently cross over the median, and obviously allows for a much smaller width median.

A unanimous vote regarding this matter was taken at the June 10, 2003 meeting of the Northgate Board of Directors.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter, and for the opportunity to submit Northgate's position.

Sincerely,



Jane L. Hatch  
President

20081 Doolittle Street  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886-1354  
February 11, 2004

Ms. Jeri Cauthorn, Project Manager  
Division of Engineering Services  
Department of Public Works and Transportation  
101 Monroe Street, Ninth Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850-2540

RECEIVED  
DPWT

FEB 12 2004

Re: Goshen Road South

DIV OF CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING SECTION

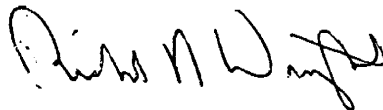
Dear Ms. Cauthorn:

Thank you for the Public Meeting on the subject project held on February 10 at Strawberry Knoll Elementary School. It was well advertised, well attended and well prepared.

The "Final Concept" should be Alternate 8 which provides the same traffic capacity (at four lanes) as the more intrusive and more expensive Alternates 4 and 6. The shrubby-planted median actually is an advantage since it better screens oncoming headlights than trees would, and is a lesser hazard to intruding vehicles and better protection from them moving into oncoming traffic.

We do need to widen Goshen Road since it is overcrowded and dangerous in its present configuration. Extra lanes, sidewalk and bicycle path all will be advantageous. However, we are nearing build out for homes and buildings from Gaithersburg north to Laytonsville; the inability for further expansion to six lanes seems no real disadvantage for Alternative 8.

Sincerely,



Richard N. Wright, Ph.D., P.E.

**Cauthorn, Jeri**

---

**From:** Steven Greenspan [steven\_h\_greenspan@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2004 11:42 AM  
**To:** Cauthorn, Jeri  
**Subject:** Support for Alternate 8 of Goshen Road widening project

Dear Ms. Cauthorn,

I express my support for Alternate 8 of the subject project. Goshen Road needs to be widened, but two (2) lanes should do it. After all, Goshen Road feeds into Mid-County Highway, which is only 2 lanes in each direction. Alternate 8 provides for bushes, rather than trees. Bushes are more road friendly--by that I mean a bush is less likely than a tree to fall and block a road or highway. By going with Alternate 8, the home owners on Judge Place in Whetstone will be impacted much less by the road widening than if alternates 4 and 6 were implemented..

Thank you.

Steven Greenspan  
18905 Bluewillow Lane  
Montgomery Village (Whetstone), Maryland  
20886-3137



**Cauthorn, Jeri**

---

**From:** saschep@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2004 7:47 PM  
**To:** Cauthorn, Jeri  
**Subject:** Goshen Road expansion

Dear Ms. Cauthorn:

It was a pleasure speaking with you at last night's meeting on Goshen Road. Although many of us would prefer a right-of-way of about 90 feet, we realize that is probably unrealistic. Therefore, I should like to support strongly the selection of Alternate 8 as being the least disruptive to the community yet will accomplishing the desired expansion, which is definitely needed. I also support the use of shrubs in the median as shown in that proposal. I sincerely hope that all components of the County government can agree on that point, about which I understand there are some differences of opinion.

Please keep me informed as this project proceeds.

Saul A. Schepartz  
20304 Butterwick Way  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886  
301-926-5093



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

Division of Engineering Services
Goshen Road South

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS

PLEASE PRINT

Name: ANNE B. SWAIN Date: 2/24/04

Address: 20653 BEAVER RIDGE RD.

City: MONTGOMERY VILLAGE State: MD Zip Code: 20886

I/We wish to comment on the Transportation Facility Planning Study for Goshen Road South:
I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT ALTERNATE 8 FOR GOSHEN ROAD SOUTH. NOT AS A MAJOR HIGHWAY, BUT AS A 4 LANE DIVIDED ROADWAY!

I AGREE THAT WE NEED SHRUBBERY INSTEAD OF TREES IN THE MEDIAN WHERE LESS PROPERTY WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO BUILD THE ROAD.

ANOTHER ITEM I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER IS THAT WHEN YOU HOLD MEETINGS YOU WOULD ALLOW THE PEOPLE WHO ATTEND TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH STAFF AND AMONG THEMSELVES. THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY VIEWS.

SINCERELY,
Anne B. Swain

For further information, please contact Jeri Cauthorn, Project Manager, Division of Engineering Services, at 240-777-7231.

Web Site Address: http://engineering.dpwt.com/



Martha L. Cadle  
9533 Tippet Lane  
Montgomery Village  
MD 20886

Jeri Cauthern, Project Manager  
Hosken Road South -

2/8/07

1. I wholeheartedly support Alternative 8, the 4 lane only divided arterial road.
2. I support ~~shrubs~~<sup>shrubbery</sup> instead of trees in the Median for safety and to allow a 16' median where less property has to be disturbed or taken for widening of the road.
3. I did notice the word (minimum) after right of way, where and why would you increase the right of way?
4. I want the road built for a 35 MPH speed limit. all around us we have divided 4 lane roads with 30 and 35 M.P.H. speed limits.
5. I want the latest pedestrian safety measures and count down signals with enough time to cross at all our intersections - not so on Montgomery Village Ave!!

Sincerely,  
Martha L. Cadle  
301-869-7455