

Fenton Street Bikeway Study

Summary of Public Engagement

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The Fenton Street Bikeway Study was originally started in 2017. However, after initial concepts were partially developed, the Study was put on hold for two primary reasons:

1. The initial scope assumed that the street would not be widened, however the current width of 44' in Fenton Village is insufficient to accommodate a bikeway and parking on both sides of the street. A cross-section of 46' would permit parking on both sides of Fenton. Public sentiment favored retaining parking, so MCDOT sought to expand the scope to look at widening.
2. At the time, Montgomery County Parking Lot 3 had closed for redevelopment, but its replacement, Garage 3, had not yet opened. There was concern from within MCDOT and the public that we were not getting an accurate picture of the parking needs with Lot 3 closed and Garage 3 not yet open.

The study was put on hold until Garage 3 opened. The garage opened in early 2019 and MCDOT began the procurement process to expand the scope and get the engineering consultant on board. The study was officially restarted in late 2019.

The public engagement descriptions below will refer to the studies as “the 2017 study” and the “2020 study”.

The 2017 Study

- On **June 27, 2016**, MCDOT attended an East Silver Spring Civic Association meeting at 814 Thayer Avenue. The meeting topic was to talk about the future of Fenton Street, including upcoming Pepco work and the possibility to start a study for a bikeway on Fenton. With the potential for the study to start soon, we wanted to hear what concerns the community had.
 - Attendance at the meeting was about 25 people.
 - Comments at the meeting were both in favor of and opposed to the bikeway.
 - Concerns voiced included:
 - Additional cut through traffic would be shifted to Grove Street
 - Spillover parking would take place in East Silver Spring
 - Truck loading for businesses would obstruct traffic or its lack would cause difficulty for businesses.
- On **September 20, 2016**, MCDOT attended a meeting facilitated by several ESSCA members to meet with business owners in the Fenton Village area. The meeting was held at the Addis Ababa Restaurant. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the needs of the businesses so we could incorporate their needs and concerns in the scope for the Study.
 - Attendance at the meeting was approximately 15 people, mostly business owners, but a few residents also attended.
 - Comments mainly focused on the loss of parking negatively impacting businesses. Concerns over loading were also voiced.
- On **November 20, 2017**, MCDOT staff attended an East Silver Spring Civic Association meeting at the B&O train station in Silver Spring to hear resident concerns and provide updates related to

Silver Spring projects, including the Fenton Street Bikeway Study, which was on hold at that point.

- On **April 20, 2018**, MCDOT attended the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee meeting to provide an update. At this point, the Study was still on hold, though we anticipated restarting it later in the year.

The 2020 Study

The 2020 Study, the results of which the Board is being briefed upon in January 2021, was kicked off by MCDOT Staff in late 2019.

- On **January 21, 2020**, MCDOT hosted a Community Meeting at East Silver Spring Elementary School. The main purpose of the meeting was to introduce the revised study to the community and take feedback regarding which elements of the corridor should be included in the Study. The meeting also included a briefing on two related projects, the Fenton Street/MD 410 Intersection Redesign project and the Grove Street Neighborhood Greenway Pilot project.
 - Attendance at the meeting was approximately 110 people.
 - We received verbal comments from only 3 attendees at the meeting due to time constraints, however, staff did talk one-on-one with anyone who wished to ask questions or make comments.
 - Following the meeting, we received 97 written comments.
 - 77 were supportive of the project
 - 9 were neutral
 - 11 were opposed to the project
- On **November 18, 2020**, MCDOT hosted a Virtual Community Meeting via the Zoom platform due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At this meeting, MCDOT staff presented the results of the 2020 Study, including a discussion of the 7 alternatives developed by the Study. Public comment was also taken.
 - Attendance at the meeting was approximately 60 people.
 - At the meeting, we received verbal comments from 23 attendees.
 - Following the meeting, we received 54 written comments.
- On **February 3, 2020**, MCDOT staff met with business owners on Fenton Street. We conducted a corridor walk, and spoke with as many business owners as we could. Some walked with us and talked about needs, others we spoke to inside of or outside their shops. On this corridor walk, we spoke to 11 business owners and attempted contact at several more.
- On **July 27, 2020**, MCDOT and consultant staff met with the Manager and Assistant Manager at the Fenton Street Safeway to discuss their loading and parking needs and observe delivery activity.
- On **October 29, 2020**, MCDOT and consultant staff conducted a second corridor walk to talk to businesses. On this walk, we were able to speak to approximately 25 business owners.