

Item 8 - Correspondence

From: lveamazon@aol.com
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Testimony for Oct. 6 RRFMP Working Draft Presentation
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 11:31:59 AM
Attachments: [RRAC Testimony on RRFMP Working Draft.pdf](#)

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Dear Planning Board Chairman Anderson and Commissioners:

Please find attached the RRAC's written testimony for consideration tomorrow.

Thank you.

Laura Van Etten
Chair, Rustic Roads Advisory Committee



RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON RUSTIC ROADS FUNCTIONAL MASTER PLAN (RRFMP) WORKING DRAFT

OCTOBER 5, 2022

The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee requests the following important changes to the RRFMP Working Draft, pursuant to work session and other discussions with staff. The Committee will have further testimony at the Public Hearing.

Significant Features

- **Mt Nebo Road** – please list 2 one-lane culverts as S.F. (not in bridge book and road not driven for traveling experience update)
- **Glen Mill Road** rustic section -- please add the hedgerows as S.F. and to the map -- mentioned in environment section
- **Mt Carmel Cemetery Road** -- please add the mature trees on the south side as S.F.
- **Oak Hill Road** – please add mature trees to map northwest of power lines
- **West Hunter Road** – please add language to S. F. as agreed to in work session and also add to the map: “roadside vegetation and mature forest east of Hilliard Farm on south side of road” (The forest does appear on the map.)
- **Kings Valley Road** – Please add back “historic alignment including a jog in the road at Kingstead Road” to S.F.
- **Lewisdale Road** – please add hedgerows to S.F. as mentioned in traveling experience and as located on map

Bridges

- **Wildcat Road** – please add Bridge No. M-0068 in traveling experience or elsewhere

Other

Batchellors Forest Road

Road profile, Traveling Experience currently reads:

The Bicycle Master Plan recommends a sidepath along Batchellors Forest Road from an existing off-street trail just south of Batchellors Run to Farquhar Middle School.

Recommended text:

A natural surface trail extends north from Farquhar Middle School to connect the residential area to the school. Extending the trail across the school frontage to the entry sidewalk would allow students living to the north to walk to school. The Bicycle Master Plan recommends a sidepath along Batchellors Forest Road from an existing off-street trail just south of Batchellors Run stream crossing to Farquhar Middle School. Due to mature trees and forest beside the roadway, conservation easements, steep grades and limited right-of-way, a continuation of this natural surface trail has been recommended.

Brighton Dam Road (Bordly Drive to New Hampshire Avenue)

This nominated road segment meets the criteria for a rustic designation and it should so be designated. Staff does not recommend it for rustic due to concerns about non-local traffic, flooding and a power substation near the road.

- Regarding non-local traffic, a 7-day traffic count beginning on Dec 3, 2020 found an average daily traffic count of 1,295—less than half of the traffic volumes (3,000 AADT) normally considered problematic. According to SHA data, pre-pandemic traffic on Bordly Drive was 1,930 trips per day, and the exceptional rustic section of Brighton Dam Road was 752. These numbers are all well under the 3,000 AADT threshold recommended in 1996.
- Regarding flooding, this is one of many county roads subject to flooding. Other well-known examples, large and small, are US 29 at Northwest Branch (Burnt Mills), New Hampshire Avenue at Sligo Creek, rustic Glen Road at Sandy Branch, and rustic Zion Road at the Hawlings River. MCDOT recently deployed 34 flood sensors to provide early warnings. If flooding is the reason for not designating this road as rustic, one possibility would be to include language noting that flood safety improvements should not be limited due to the rustic classification of the road.
- Regarding the power substation near the road, staff’s description indicates that the road base has already been modified to accommodate the substation equipment. Thus, it is not clear what new impact the substation will have on the road.

This section of Brighton Dam Road meets the criteria for designation as rustic, and there is no clear reason for not designating the road. We recommend that it be designated as rustic.

Schaeffer Road (extent change proposed by staff)

The extents of Schaeffer Road are proposed to change from the South Germantown Rec Park (Soccerplex) entrance to rustic Burdette Lane. Staff notes that with the park construction, the section of Schaeffer Road between the entrance and Burdette Lane was widened and improved, so this section of road is not as rustic in appearance as the rest of Schaeffer Road.

- This section of Schaeffer Road still meets the rustic criteria, even if the rustic character of the road has been diminished. Maintaining this section as rustic limits further “creep” of road widening, and it also protects Burdette Lane, which leads to an historic African American community, Brownstown, where Burdette Lane intersects with rustic Black Rock Road.
- Removing the rustic designation from this section may also revive a dormant idea—to add another Soccerplex entrance at the intersection of Schaeffer Road and Burdette Lane. The risk of adding periodically extreme amounts of traffic onto Schaeffer Road, Burdette Lane and Black Rock Road is unsafe and unnecessary.

Keeping the existing rustic designation is recommended.

Thank you for providing the Committee the opportunity to present our views.

You may reach the Committee through our staff coordinator, Darcy Buckley, at Darcy.Buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Committee Members:

Laura Van Etten, Chair, N. Anne Davies, Barbara Hoover, Charles Mess, Kamran Sadeghi, Dan Seamans, Robert Wilbur

