

ID	Comment
1	Covid is over. Need to put back to original use! Too dangerous to surrounding neighborhoods!
2	Please open beach Drive from Connecticut to Cedar Lane on weekends. The overflow traffic that runs through by her neighborhood. Specifically, on Culver Street, the cut through traffic is overwhelming and dangerous. Senior citizens, children, and resident's walking dogs are at risk as Culver street has NO Sidewalks.
	Thank you for your consideration and making the neighborhood safe.
3	I strongly support opening the section from Connecticut to cedar. I live in the adjacent neighborhood and the cut through traffic creates dangerous conditions due to crowding. It is rare on weekdays that I would have any cars turning left from Connecticut into the neighborhood on culver in front of me. On weekends I often have to wait 5-6 cars deep for car cutting through on roads that are not equipped to safely handle this level of traffic. I am not comfortable walking the dog or letting my children bicycle or scooter to friends on the neighborhood streets on the weekend due to the traffic patterns.
4	Thank you for your consideration of adjusting the portion of beach that is open full time to include the section between Connecticut and Cedar.
5	I'm supportive of the change and appreciate your sensitivity to neighborhood concerns.
6	I strongly support the change in plan to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. The closure of that segment has resulted in a high volume of traffic in our neighborhood which has created a degradation in the quality of life of our community which has no sidewalks. It has created a significant danger to residents and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. I hope the planning board sees the wisdom of this proposal and adopts it in consideration of the community's quality of life and the safety of its residents.
	Respectfully,
	Gregory and Janet Grinc
	4117 Dunnel Lane
	Kensington, MD. 20895
7	I strongly support the aspect of this proposal that keeps Connecticut to Cedar Ln open (not part of Open Parkway), and thus reduces the extent to the stretch from Knowles to Cedar. We walk regularly on Cable and it is currently unsafe to do so, particularly with my kids, when Beach is closed on the weekends as part of the Open Parkway program due to the immense volume of cut-through traffic on Cable.
8	I would also advocate for keep the Open Parkway hours Saturday and Sunday only given the volume of commuting that occurs on Fridays will lead to an increase in Friday commuters cutting through Parkwood if the Friday closure of Beach returns.
9	The roadway needs to stay closed. This has been an invaluable means of connecting as a community throughout the past 4 years.
10	Maintain the Beach Drive Open Parkway that runs 2.9 miles from Knowles Ave to Connecticut Ave and extend hours to 24/7 like Beach Dr in DC.
11	Do not do this!!
12	We fought to close this stretch for common use for years, it's currently a great resource for play and exercise currently used by this community!
13	Now your gonna allow car traffic again when The county is moving to reduce car usage, improve climate goals, and promote active transit! Opening this road to more car traffic is in opposition to these stated goals.
14	Do not do this, protect our few car free places. And reject this proposal
15	I concur with Montgomery Parks' recommendation. This seems a very reasonable approach and a compromise that maximizes value for both users and neighbors.
16	I am strongly opposed to removing the closure from cedar to Connecticut. Has the county determined if there is actually cut thru traffic by measurement or is it simply listening to complaints from one neighborhood without a scientific basis for doing so??
17	Love the proposed changes! Thanks for your work.
18	Please keep the full 2.9 miles open, or look to extend to more. This has been a tremendous asset to the community and to our physical well being. In an era of more and more remote work, the commute just simply isn't a credible excuse anymore. While I do understand the need to reduce cut through traffic (product of this myself), the worse scenario is when you're sharing the road with countless cyclists to be safe. If anything please prioritize the use of public space for recreation on Saturday and Sunday.
19	This is the newest stretch of Beach Drive, opened around 1968. It was created for motor vehicles, and is used as a commuter route. In the late 1970s, a parallel path was created for hikers and bikers. Rather than closing the road, why not improve the path? It's a bit prone to flooding and sometimes get muddy in spots, but improving drainage and grading would help those issues, and encouraging those who wish to walk and ride bikes to use the path. Leave the Sunday and holiday schedule for the road, but please leave it as it was intended during the week. I'm sure the residents of the Parkwood neighborhood will agree, as that will become a major detour for those who currently use Beach Drive for their commute.
20	Beach Drive is a wonderful and safe place for families on the weekends! Please close it to traffic on the weekends! I support the decision to shorten the length in the interest of keeping the most-used parts open.
21	I regularly visit my mother off of Wexford Drive. The study fails adequately to address the impact of Friday closure on schools along Strathmore Avenue. Holy Cross Elementary, Garrett Park Elementary and Holy Cross Academy will all be affected. Elementary school "walkers" are a particular concern. The benefits of Friday/workday recreation are outweighed by the increased risks. In 2006, a 12 year old boy was killed crossing Strathmore. This is not Vision Zero. Friday closure should be delayed until 6 PM.
22	I wholeheartedly agree that the .7 stretch of beach drive, which perfectly parallels Culver St. should be reopened. We have had 3 yrs. of much higher volumes of cars speeding through our neighborhood when beach drive has been closed. We have also had hit and runs involving significant car damage. We have no sidewalks on Culver, and an elementary school in the neighborhood. Children walking home from school or weekend activities are at risk. Beach drive already has a walking trail. The cost of putting a bike lane on beach Dr. would be much less than any "calming measures" suggested, which only slows traffic, without mitigating it.
23	I heartily endorse opening the section between Connecticut Ave and Cedar Lane permanently. I live on Culver St and have been very negatively impacted by cut thru traffic. Just last month one of our cars was hit by a speeding car cutting through in the wee hours of a Saturday night. The car has been in the body shop for over a month. We can barely back out of our driveway on Friday afternoons because of all the traffic cutting through.
24	Thank you for initiating opening Cedar Lane to Connecticut!
25	How would you like it if the quiet neighborhood street you lived on suddenly became a major thoroughfare for traffic? Closing Beach Drive between Connecticut Ave and Stoneybrook Drive would make much more sense. First, it is groomed much nicer than the section currently used and second, it doesn't have as much traffic. Concern for homeowners is nonexistent. Especially when it comes to traffic. Cedar Lane has no method of speed control on it at all. Rush hours have become anything goes raceway. Grosvenor Lane and Tuckerman Lane have speed control. Why doesn't Cedar Lane? Maybe it's because no one connected with
26	Montgomery County roads lives there. If they did, I'm sure it would be dealt with immediately.
27	I support this change. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
28	I am 100% for proposed 9am Friday morning closure.
29	There are many routes available to drive other than Beach Drive. No other wide open areas to walk, run, and ride in the area.
30	Please leave beach drive open during the day on Fridays. You can close it after the evening rush hour on Fridays.
31	I support the revised schedule of closing Beach Drive starting Friday mornings at 9 am.
32	Please leave beach drive open during the day on Fridays. You can close it after the evening rush hour
33	I prefer to keep Beach Drive open during the work week. Many commuters, parents and students use Beach to get to work, school, and home and get into the Parkwood neighborhood and other points in Kensington. It will bottleneck traffic to shut down this cross-connection through Bethesda/ Kensington on work and school days for parents, workers and students.
34	I am all for Beach Drive's weekend closure, but I don't think it should be closed until Saturday mornings. I live in the Parkwood neighborhood which is directly affected by this closure. On Fridays people are commuting to work, driving their kids to school, picking up from school, driving to sports practices etc. and the closure of Beach is inconvenient. Given the fact that most people are at work or in school (or camps in the summer) I don't believe there is enough demand to warrant the closure of Beach Drive on Fridays.
35	Thank you.
36	Please re-examine Sligo Creek the open parkway has created cut through traffic on Fridays especially, and the parkway is not utilized by pedestrians. Vehicles, including school buses, have to make dangerous double-lane turns from the creek to Old Carrol Avenue. You have made adjustments in more affluent neighborhoods but ignore request in east county. On long weekends and before major holidays the creek has closed on Wednesday evenings and hasn't reopened for 5 or more days
37	I would prefer that Beach only be closed on weekends. For all commuters, parents, and students that use Beach to get to and from Work, school and other points in and around Kensington, this creates a bottleneck on Strathmore, Cedar, and Knowles. During the pandemic, people were using the road more but once
38	everyone went back to work/ school...the street was closed and empty...barely used except weekends.
39	Please do not close beginning on Fridays. Travel to and from old Georgetown road for school drop off and pick ups are challenging as is, given the lack of an east bound cut thru to beach from grovesnor and no north bound exit from 495. Closing off that connection to beach would make things even harder and increase congestion in other areas.
40	Thank you for reconsidering the operating hours of the Beach Drive Open Parkway. I live in the Parkwood neighborhood of Kensington, adjacent to the parkway. I support the restoration to the original operating hours. However, I also support retaining the extension of the parkway all the way to Connecticut. In my
30	experience biking, walking, and running along the parkway over the last several years, the stretch from Cedar to Connecticut is the most heavily used stretch of the parkway and the recreational users would benefit greatly from not having to compete with automobile traffic along that stretch.

31	Please do not change the closure to start at 9 am because of the negative impact and lack of need: 1. Negative impact on the neighborhood: My family lives in Parkwood. We experienced a high increase in traffic whilst Beach was closed previously starting Friday morning. 2. Lack of need: Beach is paralleled by RC Trail and there is no need on Friday mornings for pedestrians or cyclists to use Beach in addition. I use the trail almost daily and can attest to the fact there was very limited foot or bike traffic during previous Friday daytime closures. Therefore, a 9:00 am Friday closure is neither in the interest of the community nor necessary to accommodate pedestrians or cyclists during this off-peak time as most people are either still at work or school on Friday mornings. Thank you for considering my input.
32	There is no need to keep beach drive closed. The trail on the park is never crowded. The need during covid has ended - The drive should be open to traffic. Now, drivers have to lengthen their trip, increasing pollution and smog and requiring more gas. The trail was built to accommodate walkers and bikers. Leave the road for cars. With all the increasing building occurring in this area we need better infrastructure to accommodate all the cars and not lessen the available of roads.
33	I urge you NOT to extend the closures. I live 2 blocks from the intersection of Beach and Franklin. I have also taught at the elementary school close to Beach for 26 years. These closures were helpful during the pandemic, but the pandemic is over. People are not using the park paths in as large of numbers as they did during that unique time and having this critical outlet to 355 and 495 shutdown at Franklin is both unnecessary and creates lots of unsafe cut through traffic on Parkwood Drive in our neighborhood. Parkwood Drive is a narrower street and was not created for the volume it now carries when Beach is closed. This also creates even more intense traffic patterns at Cedar & 355 and Strathmore & 355, which are already some of the busiest intersections in Montgomery County. Having Beach closed is not benefiting the surrounding area as much as it once did and extending the closure to include all day Friday will make our traffic patterns more dangerous and unhealthy. Please DO NOT extend the closure! Thank you.
34	I am opposed. Grosvenor Lane is a major commuter route during the week, with access from Beach Drive that is accessed from Knowles, Cedar, or Franklin St. The closure of the drive from Knowles to Cedar eliminates that access point and a great deal of commuter traffic that will spill onto Knowles/Strathmore and Cedar.
35	I agree with reducing the extent from Knowles Ave to Cedar Ln but would really appreciate keeping the hours the same Saturday at 7:00 AM until Sunday at 4:00 PM Standard Time / 6:00 PM Daylight Savings Time.
36	There are plenty of parks and walking/riding paths on that stretch. Not sure why Beach Drive is closed at all. It is a street and it should be used as such.
37	The Parkwood Community is suffering big time with increased cut through traffic. They can only install so many (emergency vehicle hindering) speed bumps and traffic islands.
38	I support the proposed change
39	The shortening of the route largely pertains to Friday rush hour traffic, which makes a lot of sense. As a Kensington resident, at a minimum I would appreciate all 2.9 miles to be included in the plan on Saturdays and Sundays, however. In fact, there are frequently a lot of cyclists who routinely ride from from Jones Mill to this closed route, crossing at Connecticut on Fridays. Moving forward with the plan and shortening the route will subject these cyclists, many of whom are recreational riders, to the narrow lanes along Beach Drive between Connective and Cedar. For safety reasons, and to continue to promote this active recreational opportunity, I recommend widening Beach Drive between Cedar and Connecticut and in the interim keeping all 2.9 miles closed until this modification can be done.
40	I agree with restoring the original operating hours of Friday 9am through Sundaay at 4pm EST/6pm EDT. The park should be prioritizing pedestrian/running/bicycling over automotive use.
41	On Friday we all work and use beach drive to get to our offices as well as kids school. Busses use that as well and will cause more issues for neighborhood homes. Stay as IS!
42	Keep the current hours or make it opening Friday at 6:30 pm. Closing Friday means Friday cut-through traffic. I live in the cut-through neighborhood and those Friday hours mean that the school buses are encountering more traffic on Fridays
43	Closing Beach drive at the times proposed will do nothing but increase traffic on Strathmore, Knowles Drive and the related roads - which Montgomery Parks and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission are already aware of significant daily congestion during morning and evening rush hour. The existing traffic has slowed economic activity (e.g. new home sales) along Strathmore, Knowles, and nearby corollaries. There is currently a 10% reduction in single family residential homes based on the traffic on Knowles, Strathmore, Summit, etc. So unless Montgomery Parks and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission are planning on providing compensation (e.g. tax credits, refunds, etc.) to residents of Beach drive corollaries, my family and I are opposed.
44	Please no!! It is such a detriment to the Parkwood neighborhood to have all the increased traffic cutting through the neighborhood because Beach Dr is closed. It also displaces the typical route into the neighborhood and adds even more time to our typical commutes. Leaving the road closed on Saturday & Sunday should be plenty of time for recreation. Please be mindful of those that live in this neighborhood who are disturbed by the Beach Rd closing, we far outweigh the number of people biking/running/walking along Beach on a typical Friday. Thank you!
45	There is already a hiker/biker trail adjacent to the roadway and Friday rush hour is the most heavily congested rush of the week. Leave it as is.
46	I am opposed to reducing the extents of the closure. Please make the current situation permanent or eliminate it in its entirety. There was a lot of discussion already on hashing out the extents. It only benefits people in Parkwood to reduce the extents.
47	I agree with the proposed change in operating hours, but I would like to extend the 2.9 miles from Knowles Ave to Connecticut Ave, especially during the Summer. Then it could go back to what it is now during Fall when the schools start.
48	I would like to see the Open Parkway hours reduced to 6:00 pm Sat through 6:00 pm Sunday. The current and proposed hours are too long. The closure disrupts most east-west auto trips causing many motorists to take more time and to use more fuel (either fossil or renewable.) Neither is useful. If this option cannot be considered, I would prefer that the current restrictions remain in place; ie. closure from Sat 7:00 am through Sun 4:00 pm. I'm indifferent to the sections which are closed. Thank you.
49	I am opposed to the closure, period. But at least the weekend is more reasonable. People are working away from home now and are driving on Fridays and the road space has been dwindling with all of the added bike lanes and overbuilding in the Bethesda and Rockville areas.
50	Closing Beach on Friday lengthens trips to Rockville Pike by an unreasonable distance, particularly when coming off the beltway on Friday afternoons. Knowles is NOT suited for any additional traffic and is jammed most weekdays with school pickup interruptions and too much traffic in general.
51	To get to Connecticut Avenue when Beach is closed requires additional mileage to go through the Knowles and CT intersection (traffic traffic traffic), or to drive down Saul to CT (speed bump speed bump speed bump), or cut through (unhappy neighbors) neighborhoods to Culver, which is what I will continue to do if closed on Fridays.
52	There are hundreds of homes trapped in the Parkwood neighborhood who rely on Beach Drive to get to and fro. Please think of US as you make consider this unnecessary change.
53	The current operating hours of the Beach Drive Open Parkway are appropriate and should be maintained. There is an inordinate amount of commuting traffic already on Summit Avenue, Cedar Lane, and Knowles Avenue, as well as Connecticut Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue. Eliminating the use of Beach Drive between Knowles Avenue and Cedar Lane will clog these roads even more, making it even more difficult to move through the communities of Kensington, Parkwood, and Chevy Chase View during the Friday afternoon commute. It's great to have the subject portion of Beach Drive closed to traffic on Saturday and Sunday, but
54	don't make a bad weekday traffic situation worse by closing it after 9 am on Friday.
55	I am not a fan of this. I live in the neighborhood where the main road parallels the park. Traffic is increased in our neighborhood when the park road is closed. Additionally, during the school year this creates an issue for school buses heading to NBMS. And as a metro user, I use the park to get to the Grosvenor station and this would limit my ability to do so on any given Friday. Please do NOT close the park on Fridays.
56	We need access to Beach Drive for cars to make Parkwood neighborhood accessible to home owners. We have a lovely path that can be used for recreational needs.
57	Please do not close Beach until Saturday mornings. You have no idea what closing it Friday night rush hours does to our neighborhood. I live on Saul across from Kensington Parkwood Elementary school and people rocket through the neighborhood Saturdays and Sundays, but weeknight rush? You endanger us, our children, and our pets.
58	I suspect you are doing this because it saves you money - are you willing to say whether or not money is saved having an office close this at 9am Fridays compared to 7am Saturdays. I doubt you are.
59	And tell me this - how are you eliminating the cut-through traffic by increasing the number of hours there will be cut-through traffic? Answer that.
60	I support the weekend closures because I witness the heavy use of Beech by bikers, runners, and walkers, but your desire to close it Fridays is asinine and your motives are suspect.
61	I don't expect you to answer. Surprise me
62	Jeff Popovich
63	I support keeping the current extent of the closure, from Connecticut Ave to Knowles Ave. I would prefer keeping the current period of the closure (Saturday 7 a.m. to Sunday 4 p.m.), rather than shortening the extent of the closure.
64	Closing beach Drive on Fridays creates significant traffic flow issues on Knowles going to/coming from Rockville Pike especially during Rush-hour. The rationale for closing on Fridays during Covid made sense since significantly fewer cars were on the roads. That is no longer the case and closure should be limited to Saturday and Sunday only.
65	Please do not close Beach Drive on Fridays again. As a resident in the Parkwood neighborhood, it is extremely disruptive to our lives. It backs up all of the traffic into our neighborhood and makes it unsafe for our children. Also, the Park Service is not reliable on opening and closing Beach Drive at the right times. There have been many instances when the Park Service has not opened or closed the gates at the planned times, particularly when Fridays were to be closed. Leaving and entering the neighborhood is even more difficult and dangerous when the gates are not opened or closed at the proper times. Let's keep Beach Drive closed on Saturday and Sunday and open on Friday. We have to live here.
66	Please do not close Beach Dr. on Fridays. It is very difficult to access Rockville Pike from the Parkwood neighborhood on Fridays when Beach Dr. is closed. I support keeping the operating time between 7:00 am Saturday and Sunday evening. Thank you.
67	I encourage the current status with Beach Drive Open Parkway being open only on weekends and three day weekends with holidays, from Conn Ave to Knowles. Friday closures also affect commuters who cross Rock Creek as they must go all the way to EW Highway or Knowles/Strathmore - which is very congested when Garrett Park is opening in AM or closing in afternoon. The line of cars on Friday on Knowles is huge.
68	And I saw many fewer bikes and walkers on Fridays as people were at work or school. Having the Conn Ave to Cedar Lane segment open on weekends was pleasant.
69	It is a large inconvenience to neighborhood families to close the Beach Drive parkway so early on Friday. I propose that we keep the current hours of Saturday at 7:00 AM until Sunday at 4:00 PM, or compromise to closing Friday at noon until Sunday at 4:00 PM. Thank you for your consideration!
70	I'm in favor of the longer hours of closure. However, rather than shortening the distance that is closed, I'd be more in favor of altering traffic on Culver St so it was no longer a through street to Cedar Lane from Connecticut - for example, during the hours Beach Drive is closed, make the last block of Culver one-way onto Connecticut Ave. We have plenty of streets already in Kensington that are one-way only during certain hours. Saul Road has a light at Connecticut, and if people are desperate to get over to Cedar Lane, they could use Saul. It's already a neighborhood thoroughway to the elementary school, with wider lanes.

60	Please leave this section open on Fridays. In addition to commuter traffic, many people use this egress to go to medical appointments and WJ high school . I often have Friday appointments near the high school, and the distance is "just" in range for me to manage the drive by myself. (I can't sit in my car for very long due to pain.) This neighborhood was chosen in 2011 partly due to its proximity to medical services. Re-routing through the neighborhood adds a critical 10 minutes.
61	Great idea. I fully support this.
62	Honestly, it's still ridiculous that the road is closed on the weekends. This was a solution for COVID, but it's been four years since. Many Kensington citizens work Monday through Friday and need access to Beach in order to get to work the most efficient way possible. There is absolutely no need to close the road earlier in the week.
63	The cutting of the hours for traffic to take advantage of Franklin Street access to Beach Drive is very inconvenient. I frequently drive on Franklin Street (where I live) to get to Beach and beyond and was delighted to find that the Friday hours had been extended recently to do this. Now the Board and the Council are threatening to go back to the old schedule! Please don't do this. I have a feeling that, once again, the bicyclists want everyone to accede to their life style, no matter the inconvenience to others (although I recognize runners and walkers use Beach Drive, but I don't think it is they who are pushing for this).
64	I am not in favor of prolonging the closures to include Fridays. Not only do I see the downsides (increased traffic for myself and neighbors) outweighing the potential benefits (pedestrians / bikers using the road), but I don't think there are enough bikers on Fridays during the day to warrant such a drastic change, whereas there are more car commuters trying to get to and from. This additional closure will seem to just worsen traffic all around for a handful of bikers.
65	Please do NOT restore the closure to 9AM on Friday mornings. Please keep it at Saturday mornings. I live in the Parkwood neighborhood and the use of Franklin St. to Beach St. to 355 is a major route for the residents. It is extremely disruptive to our family when picking kids up from school, driving to events, etc. on Friday afternoon to have to drive all the way around. It increases traffic on Cedar Lane and Strathmore Ave. It made sense when everyone was home with the pandemic but now everyone is back to school and work on Fridays. Please do not go back. We love having it closed on the weekends but closing it at 9am on Fridays is horrible.
66	I would like to see the entirety of the road closure - from Knowles Ave to Connecticut Ave maintained. In addition, I would like to see it closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday. I don't believe that one street having to handle the diversion is fair to make everyone else have less distance and less time on the road while closed. It is HEAVILY used during closure for running, biking, etc... and a great value to the community. Thank you
67	Please do NOT extend Beach Drive closure on Friday mornings to start at 9 AM. It will dramatically negatively impact commutes to Work and School. It already is a negative impact for travel on the weekends when beach Drive is closed. Please do not extend the closure.
68	The closure days and times should stay as is. The weekends are sufficient. We are 9700 Parkwood Drive backing to Rock Creek park. We see and have experienced the benefits of having Beach closed on the weekends. Most people and schools have gone back to a 5 day work week after Covid. The Friday closure is not necessary. We will be negatively impacted by rerouted Friday traffic on Parkwood and Culver. Please listen to the neighbors affected by this decision.
69	I use the Open Parkway some on weekends, From Knowles to Franklin, thus have no opinion about eliminating the Connecticut to Cedar portion. I see no value in adding Friday back to the times - Saturdays, Sundays, holidays are great; commuter traffic can have Fridays as well as the other weekdays.
70	I would like beach drive to be open to traffic on Fridays. Walkers and bikers have Saturday and Sunday to enjoy it all to themselves. Thank you
71	Closing the parkway on Fridays will only increase cut-thru traffic on neighborhood streets. A bad idea. Having the parkway closed on weekends is sufficient.
72	As a resident of Parkwood and an avid runner and cyclist that uses the closed portion of Beach on the weekend to both run and bike, I very much oppose the proposal to close Beach Drive to cars on Friday. Friday is a weekday when many, many more people use the road to drive on (its original purpose) than to run, bike or walk. Many people still commute on Friday, and very few people would use the road to run, bike, or walk. So this proposal would result in hundreds/thousands of cars cutting through the Parkwood neighborhood on Fridays, while Beach Drive would remain largely empty of recreational users. The rationale for this proposal seems flawed, and I hope that Beach remains available to cars through Friday rush hour.  Thank you, Deanne
73	Beach drive should remain open to drivers on Fridays. It is still a standard working day, and closing it would divert a lot of commuter traffic to neighborhood roads. I don't think there would be a ton of pedestrian use during the working hours on Friday.
74	Keep Beach Drive open, please! Restore those open hours please!
75	This will create a further divide between the haves and have nots. Traffic is bad enough. For those who continued to commute during the pandemic, or are now required to go back to the office this becomes a barrier that we are also paying to maintain as taxpayers. I drive and bike through that section on a regular basis and the trail is sufficient for the number of people that use it.
76	I object to the restoration of operating hours for the Open Parkway starting at 9:00 AM on Fridays. The Open Parkway should be maintained strictly for weekend use, which would be Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. As someone who lives within a block of Beach Drive on Delmont Lane, nearly parallel to the Open Parkway, I can state with certainty that our homes along nearby neighborhood streets will be severely impacted by traffic cutting through the neighborhood (often at unsafe high speeds that exceed the posted speed limit) on Fridays. When the Open Parkway was originally shut off to traffic on Fridays, that closure sent heavy amounts of traffic through our neighborhood streets, creating significant safety and security concerns that should not be subordinate to the convenience of a bicycle/walking path. Facilitating the Open Parkway from 6:00 PM on Friday until 4:00 PM on Sunday makes perfect sense. Closing off that heavily traveled portion of Beach Drive in Kensington to traffic during working hours on Fridays does not make sense and will create neighborhood safety issues, so please reconsider this proposal.
77	I live on parkwood terrace, at the stop sign between Franklin and Saul. When Beach is closed, there is heavy residual through traffic on Parkwood Drive. During school days, there is an UNMARKED bus stop at the stop sign, as well as MANY children walking to the elementary school, crossing Parkwood drive throughout this stretch. When they were previously closing Beach on Fridays, it not only posed dangers to pedestrians, but also caused significant delays in our ability to leave the neighborhood. Traffic crossing 355 from Cedar backed up past Parkwood, where no light exists, not allowing us to leave. I DO NOT support adding Friday as a closure day.
78	We would like to see Beach drive remain open on Fridays to limit neighborhood speeding in Parkwood and safety concerns for our children.
79	
80	I do not think that Beach drive should be closed at 9:00 am on Friday. Friday is a business/school day and the traffic become terrible on Knowles and Parkwood Drive through the neighborhood. I could see closing it on Friday evening around 8:00 after rush hour is done but this a main road that needs to be open when regular school/businesses are open.
81	I am in support of proposed plan to limit the traffic from Friday morning to Sunday late afternoon. Looking at the data provided, the current differential between Friday and Saturday is minimal to justify the closure which also help Beach Drive and Nature an additional break!
82	I would like to see it CLOSED from CONNECTICUT TO KNOWLES (2.9 miles) on FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Thank you!
83	Do not close beach drive on Fridays! It is not warranted and drivers cut through the Parkwood neighborhood creating a dangerous situation for residents. The closure hours should remain Saturday and Sunday only.
84	Beach should remain open on Fridays.
85	Please keep beach drive open to drivers on Fridays. It causes more dangerous traffic and speeding through the Parkwood neighborhood to those that are cutting through
86	We are on Parkwood Drive and were negatively impacted by the previous Friday closures. We experienced increased commuter traffic and speeding vehicles as a result. We see the community benefits of Saturday and Sunday Beach Drive closures NOT Friday.
87	Please don't close it on Fridays, some of us actually have to work on Fridays!!
88	Please keep Beach drive open on Fridays- if it shuts down again, all of the traffic will come through the parkwood neighborhood creating too much traffic on residential roads
89	As a local Parkwood neighborhood resident, I am strongly opposed to the closure on Fridays. The road closure significantly increases traffic in our neighborhood with autos traveling above the speed limit. This road closure is unnecessary and hazardous.
90	Please do not close Beach Drive to vehicular traffic on Fridays. This creates enormous traffic congestion in an already heavily congested area, as evidenced when Beach was previously closed on Fridays. The full staff report notes that Friday afternoon traffic sees 171 vehicles per hour along the stretch of road proposed for closure. These vehicles have to go somewhere -- they will either cut through Parkwood residential streets or create even more traffic on Cedar and Knowles. As a daily user (running / walking) of Rock Creek trail and Beach drive on weekends, the costs of closing Beach Drive on Fridays far outweigh any benefits. There are more vehicles than pedestrians / cyclists and the latter can still use Rock Creek Trail, no more than a few meters from the road. Why is a Friday closure even being proposed?
91	Please keep Beach Drive open to vehicle traffic on Fridays and keep it closed to vehicle traffic on Saturday and Sunday. Thank you
92	The revision accomplishes "some" progress , but not enough as to the safety of children and folks entering/exiting their cars on Culver Street. It is a very , very unsafe situation. Some cut-through traffic might be eliminated by the modification in the policy , but it's still an unsafe condition.
93	I urge elimination of the program so that Rock Creek Highlands can be a safe community.
94	I see the community benefits of Saturday and Sunday Beach Drive closures NOT Friday. This will eliminate another way to access the beltway and will just increase traffic in Parkwood, where I currently reside. It will make it much more difficult to go to work in the morning. Not to mention how are the school buses going to adapt to reach bus stops on time?
95	High traffic is back after the nice Covid break. I can't imagine why you would close the road at 9:00 on Friday, it doesn't make sense. There are far fewer walkers, cyclists during the day since most are back to work. The traffic cutting through is awful. The inconvenience of evening rush hour traffic off of Rockville Pike forced to go on the painfully crowded Strathmore into Kensington would increase. They will be building new housing very soon there as well. I see no reason at all to keep it closed every Friday and force everyone to endure a longer commute and increased neighborhood traffic.
96	Please don't do the closure on Friday morning. Keep it on Saturday morning. This is out of concern for the cut-through traffic on Parkwood Dr. Kensington Parkwood Elementary School has a late start which is after the proposed 9:00 am closure time. We already see brazen disregard of the stop sign at the intersection of Parkwood and Saul during morning and afternoon rush hour. I imagine a Friday AM closure would make conditions worse.
97	We live in the Parkwood community and I'm an avid runner on Beach Drive. We feel strongly to keep Beach Drive open to drivers through the Friday morning commute (which needs to be AFTER Kensington Elementary 9:25am start time). Parkwood Drive, Saul Road, and Franklin Street are already a mess with drivers, kids walking to school, and many busses getting the kids to school. There is already enough traffic on our community roads. If Beach Drive closes Friday mornings, this will be even MORE traffic in our neighborhood. It is unsafe!

98	Definitely like the idea of keeping the section from Cedar to Connecticut Ave open to reduce neighborhood cut throughs in the adjacent neighborhood. I am not sure the extended hours (Friday-Sunday) are really needed for the section that would be closed on the weekends/holidays. There is still a good volume of traffic that uses Beach Drive to access Rockville Pike and other areas to the West and North of the Beach/Franklin intersection. The volume of traffic that uses Parkwood Drive on Weekends is already greater and adding that traffic to streets during school days is unnecessary. Lots of walkers in the neighborhoods and people who do not live in the neighborhood but cut through during the times Beach Drive is closed, tend to speed and drive more recklessly. They just want to get where they are going. Please restrict the closure to the true weekend days (Sat/Sun) and holidays and keep the road open on Fridays. Thanks for soliciting input from the community most impacted (both positively and negatively) by these decisions.
99	No! Please keep it open on Friday. Frankly, keep it open all the time!! The Pandemic is over, there is a path.
100	I live directly on Parkwood and I'm impacted just as much as my "neighbors" across the way in Cedar. I didn't post signs in my yard opposing something that benefits the community as a whole. I'm sure people across the way take advantage of the closure. I thought the current situation was a good compromise. Please do not close it on Fridays, it impacts the commute too much and a partial closure of the park lessens the benefit too significantly. The county should setup speed traps or cameras in the impacted neighborhoods and if people don't like that they should move to a gated community where they can be more sheltered and not worry about being neighborly.
101	Against change. I live on Parkwood Dr and commute on Fridays like most people. I need Beach Dr open so that I could go home without taking a long detour.
102	Please do not close Beach on Friday. I live on Woodfield Rd very near Beach and traffic getting into and out of our section of Parkwood much longer and squeezed onto Cedar. Without Beach being open on Friday our commutes and general traffic get much worse, not better. Our preference would be widening the walking path and leaving Beach open permanently.
103	The less traffic on Beach Drive, the better...I fully approve. I backup to Beach Drive, have lived on Parkwood Drive since Beach was installed and have seen the traffic abuse increase over the years. I fully approve of this closure from Friday 9am through Sunday 4:00pm Standard Time/6:00pm Daylight Savings Time. I also do not want traffic cut throughs on Parkwood Drive.
104	I ride through RCP weekly if not more. While I wish the closers were covering more of the park and over more days (24/7 would be ideal), I have grown used to the closed sections as is. However, the proposed changes limit the ability of cyclists to leverage the closed sections and to do so safely. I encourage Parks to reconsider further limiting safe cycling use of the park with these recommendations and to leave the closures in place as is.
105	It needs to be left open all day on Friday. The cut through traffic is awful and unsafe. There are a variety of programs that take place at the neighborhood elementary school through the entire year. This would be very dangerous for children walking and was awful when it was closed previously. I personally do not believe this section should be closed over the weekends either....but that is not what is being asked. I also think that this section could be better paved to give access to bike lanes if that is needed...but the upkeep of the current bike/walking trails are horrid and a hazard since it is so uneven and narrow.
106	Please do not close Beach Dr on Fridays. First of all, Parkwood Dr runs parallel to the section of Beach Dr being proposed for Friday closure. Previously, when this section of Beach Dr was closed on Fridays, the Parkwood neighborhood, and Parkwood Dr in particular experienced an increase in cut through traffic, often speeding. Note that Kensington Parkwood elementary school is only one house from Parkwood Dr. Second, Beach Drive at Franklin St is a much used exit route from my neighborhood to access Grosvenor Lane and Rockville Pk northbound for work, school, errands etc. It is used more on Fridays than on the weekends. There are benefits to the community to have Beach Dr (from Knowles all the way to Connecticut Ave) available for recreational use on the weekends; I see more benefits to the community to continue having it open to traffic, including school buses, on Fridays. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
107	I live in the Parkwood neighborhood directly off of Beach drive where this open runway is. I OPPOSE this modification. 1. I work outside the home, Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 5:30. Closing Beach drive will increase my drive time to work. In addition, in the afternoons, having Beach Drive closed makes the traffic to turn left onto Cedar Road from southbound 355 very very long. In addition, it will also increase traffic on northbound 355 at Grosvenor Lane during evening rush hour where the road is already down to 2 lanes going northbound due to construction (if people cannot take Beach Drive). 2. If the purpose is to eliminate the cut-through traffic, adding a full day to the closure will increase the traffic on Parkwood Drive (the road I live on) where there are many children playing and cars parked on the road. 3. There is not a need to close the road on Fridays since many people are working and children are in school, so they aren't using Beach Drive recreationally. Please DO NOT CLOSE Beach drive on Fridays. It will add stress to the lives of those of us living in Parkwood and Kensington Estates. We have adjusted to Beach drive being closed on the weekends which can already be cumbersome.
108	Again - as a resident of the neighborhood that is directly affected by this closure, please DO NOT make this modification. We need Beach Drive open to vehicles until after rush hour! Otherwise people are waiting and waiting and backups and delays ensue. Thank you/.
109	As a daily commuter to work Monday-Friday closing Beach Drive at 9:00am on Fridays would be an inconvenience. With regular traffic congestion during rush hour impacting travel on Connecticut Avenue, Cedar Lane, Knowles Avenue and 355, an incident on any of these routes often extends rush hour congestion well past 9:00am. Beach Drive is the most expedient route to circumnavigate some of this congestion. I notice drivers taking Parkwood Drive (which parallels Beach Drive) at speed, even with speed bumps in place, and believe a 10:00am start time would reduce commuter traffic through the neighborhood and still allow users of the closed Beach Drive route time to enjoy the open roadway safely during the day on Fridays.
110	I don't understand why the folks on Culver Street don't just get sidewalks! Of course they yell and scream about traffic since they are walking in the street! So I am opposed to this change until they get sidewalks and then reassess their need for it.
111	As a resident of the Parkwood development these closures directly impact me and the neighbors in my neighborhood. I suggest that the closures remain on Saturday and Sunday but DONOT resume on Friday. Kensington traffic is bad enough. Closing off this access on Fridays would be an issue! With beach drive closed last Friday I noticed both cedar lane and Parkwood drive having more traffic. It was very hard for us to turn left out of our neighborhood onto cedar. And late afternoon worse too. It is very unsafe for the families along Parkwood drive.
112	We love the road closed on Sat and Sundays but don't think it is with the extra traffic to the surrounding neighborhoods on Fridays
113	I'm a regular walker (weekday and weekend) of the busy 2.2 mile segment and neighborhood resident. I am concerned re increased neighborhood traffic if Friday hours are added to the Beach Drive Open Parkway program. I am also concerned about eliminating the Cedar Lane-Connecticut Av segment, since it was great for bicyclists to have the Parkway free of auto traffic and for pedestrians to have the trail pretty much free of bicyclists.
114	This is a good idea. However Parkwood Drive needs several speed bumps and cameras. We see high speed cut through driverz which is dangerous for kids. Especially school walkers and kids walking to bus stops. Without some speed limitation/bumps/cameras, Fridays could become pretty dangerous for all kids and elderly in the area. Please, consider.
115	I would like to keep the Cedar to Knowles portion open. It provides a safe place to run, walk, and bike.
116	Please do not close Beach Drive on Fridays. I live in Parkwood. Closing Beach Drive on Fridays makes commuting very very difficult for people who live there and causes a huge increase in cut-through traffic. I run on the trail along Beach Drive every Friday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and trail usage is never heavy enough to justify closing Beach Drive on Fridays during the day.
117	I like this proposal. My family and our neighbors certainly used this benefit on Fridays when it was available. I would in fact recommend closure starting at 8 AM on Friday instead in the summer for morning walks.
118	I am in favor of this proposed modification. Thanks
119	Beach drive should only be closed on the weekend and not Fridays. It creates too much cut through traffic and beach is a major roadway.
120	I am 100% against closing ANY SECTION of Beach Drive to cars for ANY WEEKEND DAY. Why should 1000s+ homeowners be Forced to drive MILES OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ACCOMMODATE BICYCLISTS? THERE IS NO GOOD REASON FOR THIS.
121	Against opening at 9AM on Friday due to increase traffic on Cedar lane and cut through traffic on Parkwood drive.
122	Please do not do this. Specifically, please do not redefine the weekend to include Fridays, when many people go to work. Cutting through Parkwood Drive, will result in tragic consequences for the neighborhood and the children who will be walking to school at the time cars begin to cut through at 9am. KP doesn't begin until 9:20am, so encouraging more cars to use Parkwood Drive as a highway at that time is very irresponsible. Similarly, more cars will be diverted through the neighborhood when children are returning home from school. There is no need for recreational use of this section of Beach Drive on Fridays during the workday, especially when a safe walking path is already available right next to the road.
123	Please do not increase the closure to include Friday. The amount of cut through traffic in Parkwood due to the closure is dangerous to the neighborhood residents.
124	I don't understand how shutting down beach drive on Friday will reduce cut through traffic. As a resident living in Parkwood, we see an increase in cut through traffic in our neighborhood when beach drive is closed. The cut through traffic is frequency speeding through the neighborhood without regard to the residents. Please do not close Beach drive on Friday.
125	Yes! I really miss the Friday hours and never understood why they were cut because it was quite popular. I'm glad to see Montgomery Parks is considering people and their community and health.
126	I have really enjoyed the Beach Drive Open Parkway and run it frequently with my dog. I read through the staff report and agree with the conclusion to reduce the overall extent to between Knowles Ave and Cedar Ln. I did not find any compelling evidence to extend the operating hours to include Friday. As the staff note, there is evidence there will be cut-through traffic on Parkwood drive, which would be disruptive. But they did not produce any compelling evidence that the open parkway would be used by pedestrians on Fridays during the day to offset the disruption. During the original operating period from 2020-2022, Fridays saw ~50% of the pedestrian usage as Saturday. Because of the changes in workplace dynamics since 2020, there is reason to believe that Friday usage would be even lower than that pandemic-era baseline. I would propose leaving the operating hours as they currently are, or potentially a compromise would be opening the open parkway for Friday evenings ~6 PM.
127	Yes to original operating hours. This will increase access for recreation
128	Please do not restore the original operating hours to Friday. Closing on Friday would push weekday commuter traffic into the neighborhood. The Saturday-Cindy closure currently in fact has worked well since it was put in place. There is no need to make a change.
129	Closing Beach on Friday is inconvenient for anybody who is working and needs to drive to Metro. I am in support of keeping the current closure hours of Saturday to Sunday
130	What about the cut through on parkwood drive? This proposal does not address the uptick that result on Fridays.

131	Yes they should have it open to all because you never know if there's somebody new to this town.
132	
133	I live on Parkwoods Drive, which is a detour while Beach is closed. Closing greatly negatively impacts our neighborhood. Many of our children walk to school on Fridays, busses take our children to farther schools on Fridays. This makes things much more difficult for buses and the added neighborhood traffic is dangerous to the walking elementary school children. Not to mention the difficulty it adds to everyone driving to work on Fridays. Shutting on Fridays equates to longer drives, giving off more CO2 and more exhaust fumes in our neighborhood.
134	Close beach drive Friday to Sunday between Knowles and Cedar
135	I AGREE WITH THIS. Friday mornings, people are not as much in a rush, Most people are still 70% in office, 30% off mostly being Friday, and it would be nice for more bicyclists to enjoy it
136	Please keep cedar to Connecticut open. I'd rather have less time on Fridays than less open road on weekends.
137	Please do not close Beach drive on Friday. Keep the closure on Saturday/Sunday only.
138	Please leave beach drive open on Fridays, for the safe travel in and around our communities. Thank you
139	I do not agree with the proposed modifications to the Beach Drive Open Parkway Program. It is fine the way it is at present. Beach Drive is a vital East-West alternative to the Interstate 495 for local drivers. I question the accuracy of recent traffic measurements. Some neighborhood residents have petitioned Google to remove a significant section of Beach Drive from Google Maps. This is the section between Knowles and Cedar. Google Maps does not route drivers on this section. More concerning, when a driver uses this section of Beach with Google Maps, the navigation application does not display Beach Dr. It's as if the road was removed from Google Maps.
140	This is a terrible idea. That portion of Beach Dr is crucial for Friday commutes, driving to and from work on Fridays. There are more people using that route for their commute than there are people who do not work on Fridays and would benefit from its closure to vehicles. Furthermore, when Beach is closed, those commuters cut through the Parkwood neighborhood, increasing traffic in a school zone where there are numerous pedestrians, specifically elementary aged children.
141	The earliest that Beach Dr should close on a Friday is 7pm. Anything earlier than that is irresponsible.
142	Kensington Parkwood Elementary, which is one block off of Beach Drive, opens at 9:10. Closing Beach Dr at 9am would make school drop off extremely difficult for school busses, parents and children. As well, pick up would be very difficult at 4pm by pushing parents into what is already difficult rush hour traffic. Please keep it open on Friday! Lots of commuter and school traffic otherwise a nightmare for our neighborhood streets
143	Thank you We enjoy it being closed for the weekend but when it becomes a main artery to service commuters to school and work, Parkwood is too busy. I have 2 kids under two and live by a bus stop on Parkwood and it is too busy when beach is closed on weekdays. Kids and drivers get in rhythms and mixing up their commute patterns creates an unnecessary risk.
144	By adding Friday to the closure of Beach Drive you are closing off the exit on Friday at Beach Dive and Grosvenor Lane onto the Rockville Pike, north and southbound and Grosvenor Lane westbound. This will result in heavier traffic on Knowles/Strathmore on a Friday workday. This road, MD 187 is already heavily burdened going through a curbed, Garrett Park and passing three schools. Friday should NOT be added to the Beach Drive closure.
145	As a bicyclist that uses the Beach Drive Open Parkway on weekends and as a motorist that uses Beach Drive on weekdays I strongly prefer no change to the current operating hours and days. I also strongly prefer no change to current 2.9 miles route.
146	I understand my neighbors on Culver street are upset about the cut-through traffic resulting from the weekend closure of Beach Dr. between Cedar and Connecticut. I support efforts to address this issue, but the County's proposal eliminates one-quarter of the already very short (but much used and valued) closed portion of the Drive. I wonder if the County considered other options to reduce cut-through traffic, such as using signage to restrict access to Culver during morning and evening rush hours, as is done on many other streets in the County subject to cut-through traffic (e.g., Second Avenue between 16th Street and Second Ave.). I support the idea of beginning the closure on Friday mornings. However, this implied quid pro quo (i.e., a significant reduction in the amount of pedestrian/biker-friendly parkway in exchange for restoring the previous closure start time to Friday morning) does not appear to have any thoughtful analysis or even a reasonable argument to support it. It is also not clear what is meant by the statement that the proposed reduction the in open parkway will preserve the section "with the highest use." Is MNCPPC saying there are fewer pedestrians and bikers using the section of Beach from Connecticut to Cedar than using the section from Cedar to Knowles? That seems odd. What is the evidence to support this claim?
147	The surrounding main roads can handle the extra traffic on weekends. By adding Friday again to the closure, the already over-capacity traffic on these main roads will once again surge. Getting onto these roads from Kensington Estates, for example, is already a nightmare due to the urbanization of Kensington. People do cut through our roads, too (Parkwood, Saul, etc.) when Beach is closed. Why was our area picked, as opposed to other stretches of Beach, in the first place? We urge you to keep to the Saturday and Sunday only closures.
148	Please do not extend the hours of closing Beach Drive. My wife and I are adamantly against this proposal. We already fought once to have the original Friday through Sunday pandemic closing reduced to just the weekend. Why are we having to fight this again? The most cars use Beach Drive on Friday and people work on that day and, therefore, the Rock Creek trail is adequate to handle the number of walkers, joggers, and bikers on that day. Looking at Parkwood Residents Association Listserv today about this proposal it appears most residents are against this proposal. Residents that work away from their homes during the weekdays should be able to get back home from Route 355. The alternative to Beach Drive access to Parkwood by trying to turn at Cedar and Route 355 during rush hour is almost impossible. Therefore, we need Beach Drive to remain open during all weekday work days. I cannot think of one good reason why someone would ever consider closing the road on a weekday, especially a Friday. Thank you for considering our opinion.
149	I would like the closure hours to remain on Saturday and Sunday only.
150	You cannot close the section of beach drive between Connecticut Ave and Cedar. It has created a traffic crisis in our neighborhood. I am completely in favor of this plan
151	I recommend keeping the current schedule of Beach Drive closure on Saturday and Sunday.
152	Please do not shut Beach Drive on Friday and increase the "cut-thru" traffic in the neighborhoods. People still commute home on Friday afternoons from work and use Beach drive on their way home. As a hospital worker and Friday commuter I am not in favor of this plan!! It puts our neighborhood at risk of more cars driving quickly through our streets where there are children coming home from school and/or playing outside.
153	Do not close this section of Beach Dr on Fridays. There is no reason to do this and it is very disruptive to the neighborhood.
154	I strongly believe that the road should be open to vehicles on all weekdays, including Fridays. I remember that when the road was closed on Fridays during Covid, no one really used it, I'm guessing because most people are at school or work as it's a work/school day. I also very much like the current extended route (closure extending all the way to Connecticut Ave). I do not believe that it makes any sense to add a weekday closure in consideration for shortening the route. Seems like one thing doesn't have anything to do with the other. Like apples and oranges. Thank you!
155	I have appreciated this experiment, one of the few good things wrought by the pandemic. However, shutting down any part of Beach Drive on Fridays seems like a mistake. So does eliminating the Connecticut-to-Cedar stretch, which I walk almost every weekend. Unfortunately, the parallel path is not as well-maintained as the road, and the older one gets, the one more appreciates smooth and level pavement. The vote from here is to maintain the status quo -- Connecticut to Knowles, closed only on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks for hearing me out.
156	I'm a proponent of the new shorter route for open parkway program, but not the extended usage. Please don't shorten it. I cycle in RCP 2 to 3 times a week, as it's the only safe place to ride without traffic. There are more than enough roads for people to drive on.
157	If directions are the problem, talk to the map companies!
158	I support the proposal although would prefer to see the full length open on Sunday when the neighborhood impact seems to be less. Thank you.
159	I'm in favor of keeping the entire 2.9 miles open from Friday morning through Sunday evening.
160	The whole range should be reopened fully during the week. Recreational biking should not take precedence over utility.
161	I interpret this as meaning that (1) only Beach Drive between Knowles and Connecticut will be closed at all on the weekend, and (2) Beach Drive will be closed starting 0900 Friday through 1600 EST or 1800 EDT.  My concerns are 1) this section seems to be the least used by bikers (who are really the main people who use the open parkway; most runners stick to the paths) 2) traffic on Knowles (going east from Garret Park) is already backed up because of congestion at the Summit Avenue and Knowles intersection. This means that people who are planning to turn right on Summit or Connecticut will continue to have long waits unless they cut through the neighborhood - which has narrow winding streets, lots of cars parked, and lots of young children. Having Beach drive closed on Friday will exacerbate this. 3) would it be worth considering also having the drive open overnight?
162	Thank you.
163	I prefer to keep Beach between Cedar and Knowles open on Fridays. It's good closing that section on weekends.
164	I oppose this new plan of closing Beach Drive beginning Friday mornings. Beach drive is an integral commuting route during the work and school week especially for Kensington Parkwood elementary and Walter Johnson schools. It is ironic that the Culver Street homes won't have Beach Drive closed at all during the weekend but the Parkwood Drive homes will be impacted as the cut through for 3 days instead of 2 one of which being a work and school day. I very much oppose this new plan. Please keep the auto closure of Beach Drive to just Saturday and Sundays.
165	I oppose this new plan of closing Beach Drive beginning Friday mornings. This will put added traffic onto Parkwood Drive as Beach drive is an integral commuting route during the work and school week. This new plan does not have Beach Drive closed behind the Culver Street homes at all during the weekend but the Parkwood homes would have it being used as a cut through for 3 days of which one is a school and work day. I very much oppose this new plan. Please keep the auto closure of Beach Drive to just Saturday and Sunday.
166	Please reopen Beach Drive. We live on Culver and the amount of cut thru traffic is dangerous.
167	I'd you aren't going to extend the time period for what the distance is currently (all the way to Connecticut), leave the hours (and distance) as is. Don't not shorten the distance just to extend the time.

168	Beach drive was originally closed between these 2 roads because of Covid. Quarantine is long gone and folks are back to work. Re-closing this road on Friday assumes no one works that day. When it was closed before it would take an additional 15 minutes to get home. Please reconsider leaving it open on Fridays. It's bad enough it's closed the rest of the weekend. There is a path there in case you forgot.
169	Many people commute to and from work on Fridays including myself and this creates an inconvenience, adding extra time. Not only this but it forces us to cut through nearby neighborhoods increasing local traffic congestion.
170	This is a HORRIBLE proposal. Data shows that it would INCREASE traffic in the adjacent neighborhood AND it would REDUCE the length of available car free roads on Beach Drive. I live at 10109 Parkwood Drive and very much support and appreciate the access to a car free Beach Drive on Saturday and Sunday for all residents of Montgomery County. However, the increased traffic — especially without resources for monitoring reckless driving and speeding on Parkwood Drive — reduces safety and peace of mind for residents in the adjacent neighborhood. In addition, reducing the closure from 2.9 to 2.2 miles takes away from the benefits of an extended car free road/trail and likely will mean more crowding of cyclists, runners, and walkers on the shorter section. Please, please don't adopt this new proposal. It really makes ZERO sense.
171	Please DO NOT do this! Why is this even an option? It creates so much more traffic, pollution, wasted gas, and stress on local drivers when Beach is closed at all, let alone during Friday rush hour! Please either leave it open all the time, or keep the current hours! We are out of the pandemic! Walkers and bikers can still use it with cars! They do all the time! Keep it open!
	I am a resident of Parkwood. I do not support closing Beach Drive on Friday. I believe it should be open on all 5 work week days to provide access to rush hour and other traffic and keep open the entrance/egress from Parkwood via Franklin on those days.
	I do support opening Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Avenue at all times of the week including the times on Saturday and Sunday it is now closed to alleviate cut through traffic.
172	I think we should keep in mind there is a nice, shady and fully functional walking/ biking path along this whole stretch of Beach Drive and from my point of view, no reason to shut the roadway at all at least for walkers.
173	I am all on board for restoring the hours back to Friday! This allows so many to feel safe and extend the opportunity to ride without fear for being hit by a car. Also why does increase traffic through these wealthy neighborhoods matter more than the safety of so many that use Beach Dr for recreational activities? Don't shorten the closures to 2.2 miles vs 2.9. Put signs up that say no thru traffic. Post a police there to enforce. There are solutions and better ways to compromise.
174	As an avid walker, biker and runner, I'd like to see the extents kept at 2.9 miles and restore the original hours starting Friday at 9:00 AM.
	I have no problem with shortening the extent of the closure to only go from Knowles to Cedar, to help Culver avoid cut-through traffic. I think that makes a lot of sense, actually. But I feel strongly that Beach Dr should remain open on Fridays. I live on Parkwood Drive and we serve as the cut-through for the northern end of that stretch, so we would get significant extra traffic on Fridays. I also don't really see the reason or need to close Beach Drive on Fridays. Even though many people work from home on Fridays, they are generally working, not out riding their bikes or scooting with their kids, the way they are on the weekends.
175	Bottom line: Having at least some part of Beach Drive closed on weekends has been a wonderful addition to the neighborhood spaces for physical activity. But I don't see any need to extend that to Fridays, with significant downside to those of us who live on Parkwood Drive.
176	The value of city park spaces is undeniable to communities. The concern about increased through traffic rerouted from Beach through the neighborhoods is far outweighed by the community benefit.
177	Concur with the proposal. Also, would like to see the Sunday operating hours extended by an hour. Thanks
178	No part of beach drive should be closed to vehicular traffic on Friday. This exasperates an already overcrowded traffic situation for commuters and locals, and even worse, it diverts traffic into the neighborhoods on school days when children are walking to and from school during a heavy traffic day. The beach closure times should remain Saturday at 7/8 am through Sunday 4/8 pm. I also prefer the longer 2.9 mile stretch closed for recreation on Saturday and Sunday where it has the best chance to be used that way by the greater community.
179	I am in favor of keeping as much as possible of Beach Drive as much as possible free from auto traffic The auto fumes etc are harmful to the tree etc and people for that matter. A place without auto traffic allows people to enjoy nature in the city. And this is a rarity. It serves as a retreat in our busy lives
180	Great idea!
	1. Fine BUT 2. At all other times bicycles must use the existing or a new bike path. Am fed up being in a line of cars going 10 mph behind one bicyclist. One can't pass because of the curves. I've seen 34 cars backed up behind one bicyclist in the middle of the street. Fairness goes both ways. Signs at Knowles: Bicycles must use bike path at all other times.
181	I object to the restoration of operating hours for the Open Parkway starting at 9:00 AM on Fridays. The Open Parkway should be maintained strictly for weekend use, which would be Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. As someone who lives within a block of Beach Drive on Delmont Lane, nearly parallel to the Open Parkway, I can state with certainty that our homes along nearby neighborhood streets will be severely impacted by traffic cutting through the neighborhood (often at unsafe high speeds that exceed the posted speed limit) on Fridays. When the Open Parkway was originally shut off to traffic on Fridays, that closure sent heavy amounts of traffic through our neighborhood streets, creating significant safety and security concerns that should not be subordinate to the convenience of a bicycle/walking path. Facilitating the Open Parkway from 6:00 PM on Friday until 4:00 PM on Sunday makes perfect sense. Closing off that heavily traveled portion of Beach Drive in Kensington to traffic during working hours on Fridays does not make sense and will create neighborhood safety issues, so please reconsider this proposal.
182	Terrible idea. Will create terrible cut through traffic on Parkwood, Franklin, and Saul, mostly during late rush hour and when elementary school opens but also later in the day. Bikers and walkers have a bike path that a lot of tax dollars were used to build years ago and it costs money to maintain. People can use that!
183	I think the Beach Drive Open Parkway should remain 2.9 miles and open on Saturday and Sunday. This would have no impact on weekday commuting. I prefer keeping the longer distance with two days rather than shorter distance with three days.
184	Why build a road and not let people use it? It's bad enough to close it on the weekends.
185	I oppose having Beach Drive closed on Friday. Parkwood Drive is populated with children walking to school and playing. I attest that the majority of cars ignore the stop sign in front of my house as well as many others. Increasing commuter traffic on Parkwood which often allows only one lane of travel due to many parked cars is dangerous. At least there are no parked cars on Beach and two full travel lanes are available.
186	Please just close beach drive ONLY on weekends. Commuting on Fridays is very important and closing beach drive will make people more stress. Opening beach drive only on Saturdays and Sundays is perfect, because we can enjoy the outdoors as family. It is common to not work on the weekends. People still work Monday to Fridays. It feels very discriminatory to suggest opening beach drive on a week day. Thanks.
187	I agree with reducing the closure to 2.2 miles but I do not agree with extending the closure to Friday. Friday is a regular work and school day. Closure of Beach Drive could impact traffic in nearby neighborhood streets and endanger the safety of children and families who walk to school (e.g. on Parkwood Drive).
188	Beach Drive should remain open to cars through the end of rush hour on Fridays. Traffic is already bad enough as it is. Closing it for recreation on Fridays benefits only a handful of people who don't have to work during the day on Friday, and would cause an increase in cut through traffic on streets like Parkwood. Please reconsider this proposal.
189	Beach Drive should NOT be closed at 9am on Fridays. Too much cut through traffic spills over onto Parkwood Drive. If Beach Drive is to be closed on Friday, then it should be at 6:00pm so most of the commuters have passed thru. Walkers can then access the road from Friday eve until Sunday eve
190	Pleased with thought of closing off Beach Dr for weekend but would like to include Fri eve.
191	Do not have strong opinion on whether ending at Cedar or Conn Av is better,
191	I don't like this idea. I live at the end of beach drive near viers mill park. Once I get off the highway everyday after work that's the best route to get home. I don't mind it being closed on weekends but it needs to stay open Friday. For the safety of drivers and bikers
192	It's not a good idea. That stretch of the parkway is how many commute from Wheaton to Bethesda, which for us is mainly doctor visits. The only other option is Beach Drive which can often be severely congested with Walter Reed traffic. This provides a much needed east west connection. I strongly oppose extending the closures to Fridays.
193	I think the proposal for closing Beach on Fridays will negatively impact the Parkwood neighborhood. This is a major commuter route and will cause people to drive through Parkwood (using Parkwood Drive). Currently there are problems with traffic speed on Parkwood Drive that the residents have been trying to address, with little luck or help from the county. It would be fine to close Beach on Saturday and Sunday and leave things as they are.
194	It would also be helpful if cyclists would follow the rules of the road and stop at stop signs and lights.
195	I am a frequent user of Beach Drive during weekend closings and appreciate it very much. However, the proposed Friday closing does not seem to be warranted and will cause upset and inconvenience to Parkwood residents. Please keep the current schedule.
195	I am unhappy that the Cedar Lane to Connecticut segment will be taken away. Having the extended stretch for the two segments encourages longer walks and bike rides.
195	NO! This will only create more traffic. It's irritating enough to have to sit through the traffic EVERY DAY in the morning and afternoons, but now you want Beach Dr. and Connecticut to be more congested?!? I live in this neighborhood and it's annoying enough, it doesn't matter which way I go to try to get on 495, there's traffic everywhere. Why do people on bicycles feel so entitled when they don't even follow traffic laws, WHICH THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO DO! They don't make stops, they cut people off even though it takes us forever to pass them and if they're in a group they're clustered together instead of being in a line for people to over pass them. They shouldn't even close it the weekends. Create a separate bike lane if it's so important to them. Closing Beach Dr. was a mistake from the very beginning. This is a BIG NO from a local that was born and raised in this neighborhood.
196	I oppose this version of the closure plan. This plan does nothing to cut down the cut-through traffic that also currently exists on Parkwood Drive that runs parallel to the proposed portion of Beach Drive that will remain closed. Like the residents on Culver, residents on Parkwood Dr have also reached out about the use of our street as a cut through during this closure. We also pleaded with the county for speed humps on the stretch of Parkwood that currently does not have it and were turned down after a flawed road strip study.
196	I also would like to know how to county determined that the stretch between Cedar and Connecticut was used less. This seems to be a convenient reason to keep it open and satisfy only the Culver residents.
196	In addition, I see so no reason why any closure needs to begin earlier than the current time on Saturday morning. The morning weekday commute slams the neighborhood of Parkwood and the closure on Beach will only return us back to where we a year ago.
196	I believe the options should be all or nothing. Either the current stretch stays open on the current days of Saturday and Sunday or this park closure goes away altogether. It's the only fair option considering the amount of traffic Parkwood will have to deal with. There are paths that exists for families to use all along the stretch of Beach Dr in question. If anything, put the energy and effort into refurbishing these paths.
197	This plan should be extended to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It should also incorporate many more streets. Cars should not be an inescapable nuisance.
198	I am strongly opposed to this. I'm fine with the weekend closures, but on Fridays, it was a major inconvenience. Please keep it the way it is. Thanks for your consideration.
199	I live directly in the neighborhood this would affect and this would not be a good idea. Beach is heavily used roadway for people in this neighborhood to/from work, school and other activities throughout the day on Friday. Going "around" beach will cause a lot more traffic on Knowles and Cedar which are already very busy. Weekends great! Not weekdays.

200	<p>I am 100% in support of restoring the original operating hours starting Fridays at 9 AM. Beach Drive is a treasure, and is used by the public in vast amounts. I live on the corner of Parkwood Drive and Parkwood Court and I use Rock Creek Park every day. There is often a feeling of "rush hour" on the trails and on Beach Drive it is so widely used. I have never noticed additional traffic on Parkwood Drive on Fridays or weekends, when Beach Drive is closed. The National Park is for everyone to enjoy. Closing the park to vehicles on Fridays would allow more usage, for strollers, bicycles and students walking home from school. There are often bird watchers on Beach Drive. I have seen owls, and bald eagles. Keeping cars off the road in that area for 3 days in a row would immensely improve access for the public and for wildlife.</p>
201	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am in support of closing this section of Beach Drive for as many hours as seems reasonable. Everyone I know uses Beach Drive for recreation, be it bicycles, walking, running, walking dogs. It is also a meeting place for friends to meet and walk together, without the anxiety of keeping clear of cars. I have not noticed what others in our neighborhood have mentioned regarding dangerous traffic situations. In fact, I have seen quite the opposite. I have not seen cars speeding down the road, there are sidewalks on both sides of Parkwood Drive, in most places, and any time I have entered a crosswalk, cars have stopped and waved me through. There is so much construction going on in the area, we are lucky to have a park running through it all where you can go and it is quiet and beautiful. As far as I can tell, extending this quiet period for an additional day would have little impact on commuters, as Parkwood Drive/ Beach Drive is not a commuters route. It is for people who live in the neighborhood and going home. Driving on the parallel route of Parkwood Drive, or other roads, would not increase their commute time. Please vote in favor of closing Beach Drive starting on Friday mornings at 9 am. Thank you.</p>
202	<p>Having Beach Drive closed on Saturday and Sunday is sufficient. Many people work on Fridays and having it closed on Fridays leads to more traffic delays and hassles. I fully support closing it on the weekends, but on Fridays is unnecessary. Thank you.</p>
203	<p>As a resident and homeowner of Parkwood who lives on Parkwood Drive, I fully support the closure of the park to traffic from Friday at 9am until Sunday at 4pm for the entirety of the 2.9 miles that is currently closed. This closure does impact neighborhoods, including my own street, but that challenge is outweighed by the value to the community of increased park space and increased park access due to this closure.</p> <p>I don't agree with my neighbors opposed to the closure, but I understand their concerns and believe there are alternate solutions to alleviating these concerns that still allow the park closure. For example, some GPS systems are optimized to re-direct traffic to shortest routes and send folks along Culver Street, which was not designed as the main thru-street for neighborhood traffic. Saul Road, however, was designed as the main traffic pathway and is wider and better able to handle that traffic. If there was an option to re-direct traffic (resident-only signs, GPS app routing exceptions, etc) to the main neighborhood roads, such as Saul Road, and appropriate bypasses, I wonder if objections to the closure would be alleviated while also addressing neighbors concerns about traffic. Saul Road and any other bypass would need to be assessed for traffic light timing and other considerations to optimize this solution, but it is my hope we can expand park access AND address neighbors primary concerns with the plan.</p>
204	<p>I do not support restoring the hours to close Beach Drive from Knowles to Cedar Lane at 9:00 am, on Friday. It is difficult commuting on Friday, a work day, when Beach Drive is closed. The weekend hour closure from Sat-Sun doesn't put a burden on commuters. Just keep the closure hours on Sat and Sunday. Allow Friday to be like every work day, with Beach Drive open from Knowles to Cedar to accommodate work commuters and those getting to and from schools.</p> <p>I am opposed to having the parkway closed to traffic at any time on weekends for the following reasons:</p> <p>The reason for the closing the road was the COVID emergency. The emergency is over.</p> <p>The closure is bad for the environment. I now have to drive around the closure by using Strathmore Ave to Wisconsin and then head south. I have to do the opposite for the return trip. This adds pollution by increasing the miles I need to travel.</p> <p>It costs me more gas money to travel the distance each way.</p> <p>It adds traffic congestion to Strathmore and Knowles and overwhelms this area especially during Friday rush.</p> <p>It causes confusion to those not familiar to the closure with no signage on how to get around the closure.</p> <p>It is not highly used by pedestrians and others when actually closed.</p> <p>The pathways already there are more than enough for the volume of pedestrians.</p> <p>When closed, bike riders often overwhelm the road presenting danger to those on the road.</p> <p>Those neighbors complaining about traffic knew about the traffic when they purchased their home.</p> <p>Other efforts to address traffic concerns at the intersection of Beach and Knowles/Strathmore are rendered useless. Nice waste of money and effort by the community to get these measures adopted.</p> <p>It adds to the level of pedestrian danger due to increased traffic on Knowles/Strathmore when the road is closed.</p> <p>In an emergency, it adds critical time to drive to Suburban Hospital from nearby neighborhoods (Rockcreek Palisades).</p> <p>People using the park continue to throw trash on closure days that neighborhood volunteers have to pick up since MNCPPC does not seem to do so.</p>
205	<p>Restore the Parkway to its original intent - people and traffic on weekends</p>
206	<p>I live on Parkwood drive between Saul and Everett. My family would be heavily impacted by this change. Keep it the way it is now Saturday Sunday only, NOT FRIDAY</p>
207	<p>I support Beach Drive Open Parkway as described, Friday 9:00am - Sunday 4:00pm/6:00pm. I also strongly suggest signage at BOTH ends of Parkwood Drive, reading, "Neighborhood traffic only Friday 9:00am - Sunday 4:00pm. Beach Drive traffic to Cedar Lane" with an arrow pointing in the direction of Cedar Lane. The location of the signage is critical. The county put signage to redirect Connecticut Ave northbound traffic from Culver St to Saul Rd, when Beach is closed. But that signage was on the right side of a 3-lane road, so no one saw it. I suggested to 311 to move the sign, but I never heard back and didn't follow up. I believe if that sign had been properly placed, it would have relieved issues on Culver St.</p>
208	<p>Please do not extend to Friday. People in the Kensington Parkwood neighborhood are still going to work and school on Friday's as well as picking children up from school that relay on using Beach Drive to Grosvenor Lane to get to Old Georgetown Road. If Beach is closed on Friday's it increases people cutting through the neighborhood and puts kids at danger when walking to and from school and bus stops. Kensington Parkwood Elementary doesn't start until after 9 AM and will cause those families and buses to take longer routes to school or needing to go down neighborhood roads. Please keep Beach open on Fridays.</p>
209	<p>I do not agree or support extending the closure beginning Friday morning. It is a serious inconvenience to those of us who live in Parkwood and commute to work and it is also a safety hazard to have commuters cutting through our neighborhood at high speeds and ignoring stop signs. I am in favor of Beach Dr closure on Sat and Sun but definitely not Fridays. What is the justification for Friday closure when children are on school and most people are back in the office? Is it to make up for opening the section of Beach from Cedar to Connecticut? If so, that doesn't make sense. Please reconsider this plan for the safety and convenience of those of us living in neighborhoods surrounding the park.</p>
210	<p>Keep the Cedar to Connecticut Avenue Section closed on Weekends and close the Cedar to Knowles section on Fridays through Sunday evening. Put in traffic calming measures on Parkwood and Culver to mitigate cut-throughs. Hold fun events on the closed parts of Beach drive.</p>
211	<p>Absolutely NOT! Our neighborhood is already overrun with additional traffic because it's closed evenings and weekends. The heaviest travel times are Friday afternoon and Monday morning--exactly when you propose to close the road. The data in your report backs this up. I live just off Parkwood and every day there are hundreds of cars that are not part of our neighborhood cutting through and driving quite fast. This is absolutely intensified on Monday mornings and Friday evenings, and has been exacerbated by the construction at the intersection of Beach and 355 (Metro underpass). I'll be writing this same information to my congressional representatives, because this is not about what is best for the people who live in these neighborhoods.</p>
212	<p>I live in the Kensington Estates (adjacent to Parkwood) neighborhood and do not agree to close Beach starting at 9a at Friday. There is a lot of traffic on Beach and by closing that road on Fridays it will increase traffic on my neighborhood roads. Most namely on Parkwood Drive and on the street I live on, Colchester as many folks use it as a cut through to Cedar. The weekend closure is working great for both the neighborhood and folks that use Beach to walk/bike on -- please rethink the plan to close this road on Friday mornings.</p>
213	<p>Friday morning closures of Beach Drive at that section previously caused congestion of traffic in the Parkwood neighborhood, including many speeding drivers. The neighborhood thought the problem was fixed when Beach drive became open to drivers until Sat. mornings. The change back to a Friday morning closure should not occur unless the county can come up with a plan to limit traffic in the Parkwood neighborhood.</p>
214	<p>I am all for maintaining the entirety of the closure up to and including the section between Cedar and Connecticut on Saturdays and Sundays but I am opposed to any sort of closure on Fridays as it will interfere with entry and egress to Rockville Pike for those traveling in and out of the surrounding neighborhood to work or to school. I also think that opening Beach to Connecticut to alleviate cut-through traffic ignores the fact that others are using Parkwood Drive for the same purpose.</p>
215	<p>The parkway should remain open until after rush-hour on Friday evenings. This provides neighborhood access to people returning home from work or school in their vehicles. It reduces the pressure on heavily traveled thoroughfares like Connecticut Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue.</p>
216	<p>Please DO NOT close beach drive on Friday. It is an essential access point in and out of the parkwood neighborhood on weekdays and would have a substantial negative impact to the residents. Knowles and Summit is already a heavily congested intersection during rush hour. It has also been well established that Connecticut and Knowles is one of the worst intersections in the county. Closing Beach Dr. would just contribute more to these issues if Cedar is used as the alternative route to beach. Likewise, pushing cars to the residential street of Parkwood drive is also dangerous. The added congestion to intersections that are already past their peak load will be a severe detriment to the residents trying to leave and enter our neighborhood. Meanwhile, the recreation value of beach drive being shut down Friday is limited as the majority of people work or are in school Friday. Plus there is a wide trail close to the road for recreational use that is open at all times. It just does not make sense to implement a Friday road closure. Some have suggested the proposal has to do with park police not being able to close beach drive timely Saturday morning at 7am. It makes much more sense to push the closure time back an hour or two to 8am or 9am on Saturday if that is the case. That would have much less impact on everyone.</p>
217	<p>What is the reason that you're restoring the Friday closure?? It's not addressed in this notice. As a resident of the neighborhood that will be impacted, I'm not in favor. The Friday closure was inconvenient during Covid, but we all understood. And why this section? Why not close it on the other side of Connecticut, near the Mormon Temple? More people are being asked to work back in their offices, so closing this section on Friday would be very inconvenient!!</p>

218	<p>Please, please, please do NOT start the closures on Friday. The fact that you are proposing to keep the Connecticut Ave. to Cedar Lane section shows how important this route is and how much it is used. Closing Beach on Friday morning creates headaches for commuters, school drop-offs, and residents. Walkers and bikers will still have access to the bike/walking path. Please leave the road open for cars until Saturday morning as it currently is.</p> <p>The proposed change will negatively impact the Parkwood neighborhood.</p> <p>Parkwood is already dealing with the "cut-through traffic issue" now, and the proposed change will only worsen the situation. While I support the use of the parkway for the benefit of all, the associated burdens must also be shared equitably. This will not be the case under the proposed change.</p> <p>Therefore, I am strongly opposed to this proposal.</p> <p>However, should this proposal be implemented, consideration needs to be given to the Parkwood residents so they may continue the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and neighborhoods.</p> <p>First, entrance parking for the open parkway should be limited to designated areas that can handle this vehicle capacity without negatively impacting public safety. A study should be conducted to quantify and assess the risk being introduced by this proposed change.</p> <p>Second, street parking in the neighborhoods surrounding the parkway should be limited to residents only during the parkway's hours of operation.</p> <p>Third, the county should work to increase utilization of the underused section of the parkway to more evenly distribute the impact among the parkway's neighbors.</p> <p>Fourth, the county should work to distribute the load instead of concentrating within a smaller area.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
219	DJR
220	How does this impact school bus routes on Friday, and bus drivers' abilities to get home if they end their route in the neighborhood heading towards cedar?
221	Please do not close beach drive on Friday at 9am.
222	<p>I disagree with re-closing beach on Fridays. While this proposal may help with Culver, which got a lot of publicity, it does not address the fact that for those of us that live between Cedar and Parkwood and north of Beach, it severely limits our access to Rockville Pike by eliminating access to Grosvenor Lane and pushes traffic onto Parkwood Drive, a residential street that already has way too much cut-through traffic. There's also no reason to do it - Friday is a WORK DAY so no reason to think that the existing path that runs through this area for bikes and pedestrians doesn't have the capacity to handle the recreational demand.</p> <p>As a regular cyclist on Beach Drive year-round, I wouldn't be pleased to see restoration of Friday hours for Open Parkway operations. I hope that the railroad underpass north of Knowles Avenue might be made safer by re-paving to reduce the risk of spills and by installation of bright lights to help road users see any new potholes under the overpass. I'd also like to see all-way stop signs on Jones Mill Road at Beach Drive and at Forsythe Avenue, but maybe that would be too inconvenient for car drivers.</p>
223	I disagree with this plan. I live on Cedar Lane and have children who walk to school at Kensington Parkwood ES on Saul Road. When Beach Drive was closed on Fridays, many commuters would cut through the neighborhood to get to Cedar Lane, which leads to Walter Reed and NIH as well as Bethesda. Cars sped through the neighborhood as children were walking to school. I don't think it is safe to transfer a large bulk of cars into a residential neighborhood right by elementary school servicing about 600 kids, many of whom walk to school.
224	<p>Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment and for developing a solution to this situation for our neighborhood.</p> <p>We live on Culver Street. As I know you are aware, the cut through traffic when Beach Drive has been closed has been significant. It was dangerous for our children, noisy and sometimes resulted in dozens of cars blocking the street in all directions.</p> <p>Removing the section between Cedar and Conn Ave from any closure is very important and should relieve most if not all of the excess traffic.</p>
225	Thank you for coming up with a workable solution! Although we prefer that Beach drive never be closed to vehicular traffic, we support your approach.
226	I am a daily Beltway commuter from my home in Kensington to my work, during which I drop off and pick up my child at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School. This requires me to drive on Beach during the same hours that the road would be closed under this new rule. While I love the walking hours on the weekend and I take advantage of them for exercise every Saturday and Sunday, this earlier closure time would negatively affect my Friday drive and require me to use alternative routes that are significantly more traffic-heavy. While I can understand the need to shorten the length of road closed in order to minimize traffic through neighborhoods, I ask that you please leave the hours as they are. Thank you.
227	I think this is a terrible idea! Most people are at work on Friday, so very few people would use the parkway during that time. And when Beach Drive used to be closed on Fridays, the traffic on Strathmore Lane between Rockville Pike and Conn. Ave during evening rush hour was a parking lot! Beach Drive is a very important commuter road and should remain open on weekdays.
228	Agree with this proposal. I was a regular user of the roadway on Fridays between Cedar and Knowles before it was opened back up to traffic. I was also sometimes caught having to drive around a longer route because I forgot the roadway was closed on Friday, but I thought the benefit to walkers and bikers was worth the inconvenience.
229	Beach Dr should stay open on Fridays. It is used heavily by Parkwood residents and school buses.
230	I prefer to cycle on the bike path between Conn Ave and Cedar and I always use the Conn Ave underpass. This modification is a good idea I think but I would like to see the path enhanced with better drainage such that the underpass doesn't become slick with sludge every time the creek level rises. If the underpass is closed, this modification is useless.
231	I am very opposed to closing Beach Drive at 9 am on Fridays. The closure impacts traffic getting in and out of the neighborhood, pedestrian safety, and the various bus stops on Friday (a weekday) mornings and afternoons. As well, people cut through the neighborhood, often at high speeds and blow through stop signs, especially the one at Parkwood Drive and Saul. It's bad enough Beach Drive is closed on the weekends but it will be horrible if they close it again on Fridays. This is not Covid times anymore and there are many people needing to use that road for Friday commuting.
232	Most people still work Fridays and need the Drive open to traffic. Otherwise, that traffic cuts through our neighborhood! Closing on Fridays only occurred during Covid, when everyone was home! Please keep this route open on Fridays.
233	<p>I have lived in Byeforde Rock Creek Highlands for 39 years and raised four children here. I walk my 10,000 steps daily for mental and physical health. It is not safe or relaxing to walk on Culver Street with the cut through traffic zooming by so close to me--no sidewalks requires that I walk in the street.</p> <p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood. The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.</p>
234	I am a Parkwood resident and oppose this proposal. You are not eliminating cut-through as stated above, you will increase it through my neighborhood on Friday. Also, the "original" hours were during Covid when fewer people commuted to work. Keep the Saturday and Sunday schedule please.
235	Yes, close on Fridays. For so many near by communities, individuals, and groups organizing walks and runs and play groups keeping Beach Drive a park road is essential. I have lived on Parkwood Drive for 40 years. Beach Drive is my recreation, my exercise, my meditation and my natural history book. I worked for MC for 28 years and traveled to facilities all over the county. Yes, bringing safety to our communities because everyone is in a hurry requires more community safety measures not making Beach Drive an alternate 495. The health of walking out our doors and meeting people from Grosvenor, Parkwood, Chevy Chase, Ken Gar and neighboring communities north of Knowles and hearing languages out on the trail is so rewarding.



236	I love having beach drive closed on Saturdays and Sundays. I am opposed to closing it on Fridays. I do not believe that the community will benefit from the additional day of closure and it will cause additional traffic delays. What is the logic behind closing it on Fridays?
237	Beach Drive is a unique road that provides more than the ability to go from one point to another. Beach drive is a major opportunity for the people of Montgomery County and DC to see why they don't have to have cars to get everywhere and the beauty of their communities when they don't drive. I would like to advocate that Montgomery Parks consider keeping Beach Drive closed to auto traffic across the full 2.9 mile route for the full duration as it currently is used. The expanded approach where cars are excluded is better for neighbors, the community, and our children's future in the long run.
238	I oppose closing the stretch of Beach Drive on Fridays as people need to use this road to commute to and from schools and work. Closing it would result in greater traffic through the neighborhood communities, many of which do not have sidewalks. This decreases the safety of the neighborhoods. It looks like traffic use studies have supported a significant increase in volume through the neighborhoods on Fridays when this stretch of Beach Dr is closed.
239	I live at 9600 Parkwood Drive. I suggest reducing the overall extents to run 2.2 miles from Knowles Ave to Cedar Ln, but from leave the hours Saturday at 7:00 AM until Sunday at 4:00 PM Standard Time / 6:00 PM Daylight Savings Time. This would minimize the cut-through traffic though Parkwood Drive on Fridays.
240	Please keep it the way it is now - the longer stretch makes for a great walk and if you close only on sat and sun and holidays, the cut through traffic is minimal.
241	I strongly support the proposal to modify the Beach Drive Open Parkway Program, expanding the hours in which Beach Drive is open for recreational use and closed to vehicular traffic from Fridays at 9 am to Sunday evenings. Parks should be places for people to enjoy the outdoors while walking, cycling or enjoying other forms of active recreation.
242	Beach Drive must remain open on Fridays. It is an important road for school busses and parents driving children to school and school activities. It is extremely important for work commuters, as well. There is no reason to have it closed on a school and work day.
243	I fully support this proposal!!!
244	Please leave Beech open on Fridays. There is too much traffic in the parkwood neighborhood. We need Beech open to get cars out of the neighborhood and protect our kids walking to school, waiting at bus stops and new drivers negotiating the streets that are already busy and have so many parked cars.
245	As one who lives directly above Beach Drive in Rock Creek Highlands I urge adoption of the recommendation as essential to safety in our neighborhood. There are many children, single-lane roads and no sidewalks. The dramatically increased traffic flow of fast-moving cars has been a clear risk. Thank you for your attention, Louis Pangaro MD
246	I live on Saul road and have two small children. The additional traffic that is forced through our road is terrible. Constantly having large trucks run through our neighborhood has ruined it. We moved here because of the unique access that this area offers, and now a road for cars is closed off to us and it forces traffic through our street we live on.
247	We want beach drive to remain open to cars on Fridays and be closed to cars Saturday and Sunday. Many people commute to work Mondays-Friday, not Monday-Thursday.
248	Why?? There is plenty of park and paths for all to use. We need to go back to the way things were in 2020. Adding a day and shortening the distance solves nothing.
249	Excellent idea! The lower section being closed has been negatively affecting neighborhood traffic. There is plenty of room on the path for pedestrians on weekends.
250	I would like Beach Drive to stay open for traffic. It's very inconvenient, adds noise, add pollution and dangerous to neighborhood children, for so many cars to drive through the neighborhood, taking a longer route to their destination when Beach Drive is closed. And it has made traffic worse on Connecticut Ave when Beach Drive is closed. Please keep Beach Drive open to cars. Thank you very much.
251	I would love to expand the hours for beach drive's closure. It has become a wonderful place to walk for those of us who don't manage the narrow trails. The trails are far too crowded on weekends. It's impossible to share the path with other dogs, strollers and cyclists. Please expand the hours for beach drive to be closed.
252	I support keeping the schedule in place now, with Friday open to vehicle traffic.
253	I believe the open parkway program should stay as is, with this piece of road still opened but only Saturday and Sunday. I have seen many people use the entire stretch of road from Strathmore to Connecticut Avenue.
254	Please DO NOT return to closing Beach Drive on Fridays! Friday is a workday for most of us, and we need access to and from our homes in the Parkwood neighborhood on that day. This would also cause an additional day of cut-through traffic on Parkwood Drive, which will be made even worse when you shorten the terminus to Cedar Lane instead of Connecticut Ave.
255	I agree with this latest proposal. Please keep the section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue open at all times. Thank you! My address: 9508 Cable Drive, Kensington, MD
256	Please maintain the closure all the way to Connecticut Avenue and the tunnel. Keeping bike traffic off the path between Cedar and Connecticut dramatically increases safety for runners and walkers, of which there are many on that stretch!
257	Closing Beach Drive on Fridays causes more traffic on main roads and creates more cut through traffic on Parkwood Drive and it's connecting streets which shown in your own data. The same reason why Byforde and Culver streets don't like the closure's are the same reasons that the Parkwood and Kensington Estate's neighborhood's don't like the closure's on Friday's. It is disingenuous to say somehow this is a good deal for both. Keep Beach Drive open on Friday's. We live in a very congested area where people rely on this road to travel and this directly affect those who live in Parkwood and Kensington Estates who use Beach Drive for their commute as well. Travel is lengthened exponentially for everyone. Cyclists can still ride their bikes on Beach Drive on Fridays. More importantly, pedestrians and cyclists have the beautiful Rock Creek Path to use all day everyday. Noone is threatening to close the path down. People do not need to walk on Beach Drive on Fridays. I do not see a study of how many walkers or cyclists use the path on Fridays. Would you provide that data on the use of the road by walkers and cyclists because I think many people would be interested in seeing those numbers? Furthermore, you have provided no reason for closing Beach Drive on Fridays.
258	Please extend the closure. It has improve the health of my family. My family uses this section of the trail each day and being able to use the actual Beach drive section on Fridays will really improve the quality of our life. This way we can bike as a family and not have to risk our children running into pedestrians on the trail. Cars have alternate routes and should not be polluting the parkway. Anyway. It is a very reasonable compromise that cars s use Beach drive 4 days the week and we pedestrians and cyclic can get it at least on Friday and weekends.
259	The stretch of Beach Dr between Grosvenor Ln and Franklin St allows our neighborhood to avoid the long backups at the light to turn left onto Cedar after exiting 495 and 270 onto 355. Please consider leaving this stretch open until after Friday evening rush hour.
260	Who are you serving by closing Beach Dr on Fridays? It's not students or people who live here and commute to work. Having Beach Dr closed on Saturdays and Sundays is truly one of the top reasons I love my neighborhood. But closing it on Fridays causes disruptions for the people that live here. If I knew the benefit a Friday closure offers, it would help me understand. But until schools and offices go to a 4 day week, I don't understand why Friday is being lumped in with Saturday and Sunday. Thank you.
261	I live on Parkwood Drive in Kensington, a "cut through" street when Beach Drive from Knowles to Cedar Lane is closed. I am against any closure of Beach Drive from Knowles to Cedar Lane, and especially AGAINST CLOSING BEACH DRIVE ON FRIDAYS. The Friday cut through traffic on Parkwood goes right in front of my house on Parkwood at Westbrook Lane, which is at the bottom of a hill. The situation is unsafe! People speed, going very fast at the bottom of the hill (there is no speed bump for 2+ blocks), parked wide construction vehicles along Parkwood obstruct the driving lanes, the crosswalk at my corner is ignored, and my car parked in front of my house is vulnerable to being hit. My car has already been hit while parked in front of my house, causing \$6000 in damage.  Many people in the neighborhood depend on the stretch of Beach Drive from Franklin to Rockville Pike (at Grosvenor Lane) to go south or north on Rockville Pike of across the Pike to Grosvenor Lane. It adds 10 minutes to my trips to have to negotiate increased traffic on Knowles/Strathmore on Fridays. I don't want the pollution, the loss of my time, the stress and aggravation, and the safety hazard caused by my having to drive more and my street becoming dangerous because Beach Drive is closed.  I don't want any of Beach Drive closed at all, but PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE IT AT ALL ON FRIDAYS!!!! There are hiking/biking trails and forest trails along Beach Drive in the park - USE THOSE!!!! If I didn't have to spend extra time driving because Beach Drive is closed, I would have more time to exercise and be less stressed!!  You do everything for the people who are not time stressed so have time to exercise, and nothing for those of us who are time stressed or who for several reasons do not exercise on Beach Drive. And I don't want my car hit again while parked in front of my house because some racing driver is cutting through on my street, talking on their cell phone.
262	You are making living near Rock Creek Park have more disadvantages than advantages!
263	I strongly oppose "restoring" the closure of Beach Drive on Fridays. It made sense in 2020 when most people in the area were attending work and school remotely and were understandably hesitant to exercise in crowded health clubs. But the world has changed considerably since then. People are no longer reluctant to go to the gym. As no one practices social distancing anymore, people who want to walk or bike in Rock Creek Park can use the trail and do not need to walk in the street. Meanwhile, many people have to commute to the office on Fridays, and others need to run errands or schedule medical appointments that can only be done on a weekday. For the several thousand people in the Parkwood and Kensington Estates neighborhoods, being unable to travel the stretch of Beach Drive between Franklin St and Grosvenor Lane means that we must drive miles out of our way to reach the Grosvenor Metro station, or Walter Johnson High School, or the many medical offices on Fernwood Rd and Rockledge Drive. The disruption caused by closing Beach Drive on a weekday is not justified by the very limited number of people who would use the road for recreation on Fridays.
264	Personally I would love to see all of beach drive closed to cars over the weekend. There is no need for cars from Friday to Sunday evening in my opinion.
265	Please leave beach open on Friday. We use it to go to work and school and it the main way to exit our neighborhood. Cedar intersection is already too busy.
266	Shortening the route is fine, but extending it to Friday is short sighted. This will cause more cars to travel Knowles and Strathmore and create a traffic mess on Fridays. Please do not do this.
267	Quit making decisions that inconvenience people's lives.
268	Excellent idea! I support the proposal 100 percent!!
269	I love the open parkway on BeachDr and use it very frequently! I often ride my bike and walk there and love that it is closed to cars each weekend. I agree with making the closures permanent, and I'm grateful to Montgomery Parks for doing this important thing to provide space for people to exercise safely. I am especially grateful for the closure in the winter, when many other spaces are not available due to inclement weather. Thanks so much for all you do to make this a great place to live. Great parks make great communities!
270	As a resident of Parkwood neighborhood, I do not want Beach Drive to be closed beginning on Fridays through Sunday due to unsafe cut-throughs in the neighborhoods especially during school bus pick up and school drop off times to avoid Beach. It's a road and should be used that way during weekdays. Keep the current hours of Saturday until Sunday. Thank you.
271	I am absolutely opposed to this change. As a Parkwood resident for 50 years I have lived through the increased traffic on our residential streets that will be exacerbated by the Friday Beach Drive closure. Saul Road is already a highway for neighborhood construction traffic. Don't make it worse with Friday cut through commuters!
272	Weekend closure works now. Keep it that way.
273	As much as I would like to have the Knowles-cedar portion closed to cars on Fridays, I believe the car traffic that would reroute to parkwood drive is too great a hazard for the local communities. We could split the difference and close it at 7pm on Fridays. That would allow evening recreation on beach during the summer while still providing rush hour availability.

272	<p>This is a lovely compromise. I do however understand that for many the Fridays become tough. I could also live with the reduced length and Saturday and Sunday. Is there anyway to close it on Friday evenings after 7pm? I walk my dog daily and drive in the neighborhood so I have a foot in both desires. Thank you, Susan Anderson</p> <p>Keep Beach drive open to pedestrians! Don't let the BRCHCA act like they represent even a majority of people in the neighborhood.</p> <p>I wish Beach drive would continue to be closed from Knowles to Connecticut. As a resident of the community that feels the overflow, I'm frustrated that my neighbors have continued to protest this closure and have pressed the community association to not represent the totality of the neighborhood's opinion.</p> <p>I personally use the entire length every weekend and am happy to see all the cyclists and families that are protected from the impatient drivers out there. The overflow traffic isn't great, but there are other solutions to addressing a small community's concerns without negatively impacting the rest of the county's access to a beautiful resource.</p> <p>Speed bumps, traffic calming furniture, increased enforcement, speed cameras, side walls --- any or a combination of these would suit this neighborhood problem but they reject it for selfish reasons without considering their own neighbors may have a different opinion in the trade-offs.</p> <p>Keep Beach drive open to pedestrians! Don't let the BRCHCA act like they represent even a majority of people in the neighborhood. -- 4412 Saul rd</p>
273	
274	<p>I think the current route length is better than the one proposed—the same with the hours of operation. Please keep the current operation and do not extend it to include Fridays—it would be too disruptive to do so. Thanks.</p>
275	<p>This seems fine to me as both a recreational user of the road and trail at both stretches and as a driver. Would you please consider in any case (Friday closure, or no Friday closure) fixing the continued flooding of the trail? As a cyclist I find myself having to use the road when I don't prefer to, to avoid the flooded sections. Thanks! I live on Westbrook Lane. Happy to point out the problem areas!</p>
276	<p>I like the closure the way it is currently extending to CT Avenue.</p> <p>I do not think Beach Drive should be closed anytime. There is a path that runs parallel to Beach Drive that walkers/runners may use. Bikers use Beach Drive regardless of whether it's closed to vehicles.</p> <p>In addition, I live on Parkwood Drive. On weekends, there is increased traffic throughout the neighborhood to use as an alternative to Beach Drive. There is also increased traffic on other roads as vehicles are all forced on other roads.</p> <p>Even if Beach Drive remains closed on weekends, closing Beach on Fridays would have a very negative impact. Again, vehicles would be forced to use alternative roads, and would cause increased traffic to already challenged intersections (ex. Parkwood and Knowles; Connecticut and Knowles; Cedar and Rockville Pike; Strathmore and Rockville Pike).</p> <p>In addition, I do not think there would be sufficient usage for walkers and runners to use Beach Drive on Fridays. When Beach was previously closed on Fridays, when I would use Beach (as a walker/runner) and see very few users of the road. I currently use the parallel trail on Fridays and I believe the busiest time for the trail is during the summer from 6am-9am.</p> <p>In summary, I do not think that Beach Drive should be continued to be closed on weekends due to the trail available and the negative impact on traffic on the re-routed roads. Even if weekends are continued to be closed, it should not be closed on Fridays due to minimal non-vehicular use and the negative impact on traffic. There is more traffic on Fridays due to commuters to work and several schools in the immediate area (parkwood elementary; holy redeemer; stone ridge; holy cross).</p>
277	<p>When the park is closed our end of Parkwood Drive becomes a speedway for seemingly angry confused lost drivers. It's hard to back out of the driveway without someone speeding over the hill and often passing either to the left or right.</p> <p>In addition the work around of Cedar Lane adds at least 20 minutes to any trip. The intersection at Rockville Pike and Cedar is always congested even when Park is open. NIH and Walter Reed drivers have added incredible numbers to these local roads.</p> <p>The park was closed to ease the Covid situation which is now over. People work on Friday now. I can see the park road and path from my back windows and it's not used enough to justify the enormous inconvenience of a 3 day closure.</p> <p>We're car dependent here. Our closest grocery store is a 40 minute walk away. Few people can bike over this hilly terrain. So if the point of this closure is to get us out of our cars it can't work in much of this neighborhood. And since we're a suburban car dependent neighborhood why make driving longer and harder as working around a park closure does.</p>
278	<p>So no to closing on Fridays. It's a terrible imposition and a dangerous situation for everyone living here.</p>
279	<p>I really enjoy running on Beach from Knowles to Connecticut, so this change will be disappointing. While I support closing Beach on Fridays, it would be rare for me to use it on Friday because I work.</p>
280	<p>I would prefer the whole 2.9 miles stay closed as it's the perfect length for a run or bike ride and it's so nice to have the full road without having to worry about being hit by a car. I live in Parkwood and don't see a traffic problem with the current closure. I think Friday evening to Sunday evening is the best time to have beach drive closed.</p>
281	<p>Closing Beach Dr makes sense on Saturday and Sundays to provide safe access for pedestrians and beers. However, the cut through traffic thru Parkwood and Byeford neighborhoods on Fridays, when the road was closed during the pandemic, is a hazard to these neighborhoods, as cars fly down the streets at speeds above the posted 25 mph. Please take this concern into serious consideration for the safety of our neighbors and their children. Please do not close Beach Dr. on Fridays.</p>
282	<p>I am not in favor of the proposed change for Beach Drive. As a resident of the Parkwood neighborhood and parent of a student at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, I am concerned about the additional traffic that would be rerouted into the neighborhood (and on Parkwood Dr. specifically). Many students walk or bike to school and an increase in traffic on Fridays would increase the risk of someone getting hurt. The statistics shared show that there is an influx of cars on Beach Dr. on Friday mornings and afternoons. Please keep Beach Dr. open to accommodate this traffic and the commuters. Keep the traffic out of the Parkwood neighborhood and away from the elementary school children. Thank you.</p>
283	<p>Please keep beach drive open between Cedar Drive and Knowles, as someone who lives in this neighborhood, the traffic gets very backed up on Cedar and it is impossible to make a left on Knowles from Parkwood Drive during rush hour. The road is heavily used by cars and needs to stay open to traffic. There is a path for bikes and pedestrians to utilize, people should utilize the park pathways to avoid the cars if it makes them uncomfortable. Beach drive needs to stay open and prefer for it to stay open on the weekends too.</p>
284	<p>I support this initiative. I use the closed portion of Beach Dr. roadway to walk every weekend.</p>
285	<p>I do not think the parkway should be closed on Fridays. It creates too much traffic on Parkwood Drive and there are lots of children who are walking to and from school- and to and from bus stops. The drivers are going way too fast and the park is not used nearly as much on Friday for walkers and bikers as it is on Saturday and Sunday.</p>
286	<p>I don't want Beach Drive to be closed on Fridays because of the increased traffic on Parkwood Dr., Knowles Ave and Cedar Lane where our kids use to go school which is more important than the pleasure of workout. There is already a pretty wide trail that people can use.</p>
287	<p>My home backs to Parkwood Drive. During the pandemic, the each Drive closure was a true lifesaver for so many of us. The road was regularly packed with people walking, running and biking. Post- COVID, however, life has largely returned to normal (whatever that might be!). On the weekends, many people continue to enjoy the opportunity to play on Beach Drive; but not on Fridays. I tend to work from home on Fridays and there is nowhere near the volume of users on beach Drive that there is on the weekends. Conversely, we see a huge increase in cut through traffic in the neighborhood. This additional rush-hour traffic in both the morning and evening creates traffic, safety conditions as school buses for the middle school and high school and elementary students walking to Kensington parkwood elementary, compete with drivers eager to get to work. We love the beach closure on the weekends. There is no apparent reason to also close it on Fridays. While I am writing in my own voice, based on neighborhood conversations, my view represents the vast majority of the neighbors with whom I've spoke. I would be glad to discuss further. You can reach me at 202-9 05-5051. Thank you Alan Goldstein</p>
288	<p>I would like to see Beach Drive closures only from Saturday 7am - Sunday 4pm/6pm Daylight Savings Time. Beach Drive should be open on Fridays for those attending Kensington Parkwood ES, Walter Johnson HS, working north in Rockville or North Bethesda etc. and stop traffic from zooming through adjacent neighborhoods. Friday is not a work from home or day off for schools or most workers. Thank you.</p>

	<p>As a nearby resident of Rock Creek Park and frequent visitor, I am in favor of the proposed modification and believe the benefits outweigh the negatives.</p> <p>With the previous configuration during Covid, the primary concern was cut-through traffic on Culver and this proposal eliminates that issue. As a runner covering a wide range, this issue was apparent to me on Friday evenings and I understood the concerns of those neighbors..</p> <p>Many neighbors have expressed concerns for increased traffic on Parkwood Rd and Saul, however I have seen enough of a sample size with the previous configuration to conclude this volume increase is not significant, certainly nothing that approached anything on Culver. I have spoken with residents on Parkwood Dr who indicated they did not even notice an increase in volume on Fridays. Furthermore, much of Parkwood Dr from Saul to Knowles has speed bumps.</p> <p>As for the issue of inconvenience and additional driving time, I believe these claims are greatly exaggerated, especially considering that volume on Fridays after 9:00 a.m. is significantly lighter than the other days of the week. I do not believe anyone's claim that their route will take an extra 10 minutes. I have experimented with different options and do not see a difference of more than a couple of minutes, barring an unusual circumstance.</p> <p>More importantly, this road closure provides an opportunity for many residents of the county to enjoy the park on Fridays, not just residents in the immediate vicinity of Beach Dr. I have personally witnessed the road begin to fill up with bikers, runners and walkers on Fridays and believe this outweighs any minor inconveniences.</p>
289	I really like having the parkway closed on Fridays. It was originally like that during covid, but at one point they stopped closing it on Fridays. I can also understand how the short section between Conn Ave and Cedar Lane would be useful to have open. However, as a bike rider that uses the whole length of Beach Drive,
290	that short section has a lot of blind curves, and drivers tend to pass bike riders even on blind curves.
	<p>My daily commute includes Beach Drive north from Grosvenor to Knowles. That stretch regularly backs up with commuting traffic, especially at 355/Grosvenor Lane. The 355 Metrobridge construction adds to the congestion there. If Beach is closed, the spillover through Garrett Park will make a bad situation worse in both directions -- especially with the Garrett Park ES traffic. I don't know if you've done any pedestrian traffic studies to estimate usage on Fridays and throughout the course of the day? At the very least, strongly recommend and request don't close off Beach until midday, like Noon or 1pm. Thank you.</p>
291	Limiting the closure to Cedar to Knowles will mean that almost no one East of Connecticut avenue will ever use the closed road. Regardless, the extra day will be irrelevant. I recommend not changing the current closures.
292	I support the restoration of the Friday hours for cordoning off Beach Dr. to licensed motorized vehicles. I ride my bike on this roadway and find some motor vehicles speeding around the curves, I use this segment as a link to Silver Spring.
293	For the safety of cyclists, walkers and families please keep Beach Drive closed at all times!
294	<p>One of the key reasons we moved to the Kensington Parkwood neighborhood a decade ago was access to Beach drive and the trail system. The closing of Beach for pedestrian use is incredibly beneficial to the neighborhood and surrounding community. My family and I love our walks and bike rides and think it is about time we prioritize our infrastructure for more pedestrian oriented activities. The waling path is often overcrowded and challenged to accommodate many bikes - Keeping beach drive closes to cars provides more safe outdoor space for recreation and exercise and socializing. The current hikers trail is not sufficient to carry all the traffic and there are way more pedestrians and cyclists that use the road than cars.</p> <p>I advocate for keeping the entire 2.9 mile length open. The full section, enables much better and safer connectivity for individuals and families wanting to do through rides to DC. I see the access to regional ridership as an economic boon to Kensington neighborhood with more riders and families stopping in town to enjoy a snack. The more riding the groups the better for the community! also for me, I love riding the entire length. It is a perfect workout - which I do each week.</p> <p>As a resident, It is no big deal to drive around the park on the weekend. It only adds a couple minutes to any drive -- people who say they can't be inconvenienced by a minute or two for the greater good are well, Kinda selfish in my book.</p> <p>Regarding opening the road on Friday am - I am impartial and think more people would use the resource Friday after work - not during the day. SO would advocate for closing the road up during the summer at 6pm for Friday evening recreation.</p>
295	Thank you for taking the time to hear from the community, Marla
	<p>I have been a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands for almost 40 years. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. While our children are all grown, both my husband and I frequently walk around the neighborhood.</p> <p>Because of the heavy volume of traffic on the weekends on Culver St, it is almost impossible to walk the street safely.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>On any given weekend there are approximately 1700 cars that drive north and south on Culver St. endangering the lives of residents. The street is narrow and lacks sidewalks. This is the exact opposite of what Vision Zero, a county initiative, is advocating.</p>
296	The BRCH neighborhood looks forward to the passage of this proposal.
297	Friday to Sunday works for me.
	<p>I do not support any reopening of any portion of Beach Drive to cars. I am pleased to see that Montgomery County has extended the closure time period for certain portions of Beach Drive, but the county should be investing in alternative forms of transportation other than driving if it is concerned about cut through traffic, as evidenced by its report. Montgomery County roads are hostile to pedestrians and cyclists, and it should not take away a precious oasis. Furthermore, I do not see any analysis of where bike traffic will go should you reopen beach drive to cars. Rock Creek Trail suffers from overcrowding and any proper study of changing the adjacent road should include an impact study of Rock Creek Trail, including the potential to widen the trail in response to taking infrastructure away from residents.</p>
298	Please keep the entire 2.9 section open, and keep the start time of 7 AM. 2.2 miles is too short. Heck, even 2.9 miles is too short--pedestrians and cyclists need more space in our area.
	Please also go a step further and extend it through 6 PM standard time and 8 PM daylight savings time. My family has been caught off guard when we go in one direction, and then we find that cars have been allowed back on.
299	
300	We live on Parkwood Drive which also experiences excessive traffic on days Beach Drive is closed. We fully support keeping the FULL LENGTH of 2.9 miles closed from Saturday AM till Sunday evening but oppose closing the Drive on Fridays when traffic re-routes past our house as well. We love walking and biking the full length of the current closure but we don't see the purpose of closing it on Fridays when there are few recreational users and when local traffic is increased, and we don't want to see the closed portion reduced to only 2.2 miles. Thanks.
301	I bike on Beach drive frequently, during the week as well as during the weekend. My favorite bike loop is to join the closed sections of Beach drive Sligo creek and Beach drive in rock Creek park and Anacostia drive doing a 50 mile loop. I feel blessed that we have this opportunity where we live. Propose to close beach drive from Garrett Park road to Stoney brook drive during the weekends. I would also close beach drive from east west highway to the dc line, and repave the road between 410 and the dc border.
	<p>I am a daily bike commuter from Kensington MD to downtown DC. Beach Drive is one of the only places cyclists can ride safely in the area. There are countless other options for cars -- the Beltway, various other accesses to Walter Reed &amp; NIH, Connecticut Avenue, Cedar Road, Rockville Pike, and more.</p> <p>The push should be to increase not decrease the length of the reservation of Beach Drive for bikes, runners, and other non-motorized activity. The current reservation could be extended to Kensington Parkway or beyond easily.</p> <p>I welcome additional hours but not at the expense of protected mileage.</p> <p>Also this proposal hurts rather than helps the stated intent of decreasing cut-through traffic. On my commutes, the traffic is heavier between Connecticut and Cedar, as drivers use this as a workaroud to Medical Center backups and Beltway accidents. Neither of these is a legitimate better use than local residents' use for bike commuting or recreation.</p>
302	
	<p>I don't agree with the reduction in open public space and turning the section to a vehicular road only accessible to a few users. We should be increasing the number of roads that are closed to vehicular traffic to open space for everyone, not just those who want to drive through our limited parks. Please consider closing the entire 2.9 mile section off the whole week instead. There are huge highways right next to this section, please stop induced demand.</p>
303	
	<p>I think having this road closed to cars on Friday is NOT a good idea. I understood the reason for this during Covid when everyone was staying home but most people work on Friday and need to have access to Franklin and Beach for commuting and to reach Rockville Pike and other locations nearby. If this is closed it is going to cause more backups and delays for those of us that need to commute in and out of Parkwood on Fridays. I support the closure on Saturday and Sunday when traffic is lower and rush hour is not an issue.</p>
304	
	<p>I strongly oppose reducing the length of the open parkway in exchange for Friday operating hours. This is the only way to access Bethesda by bike from further east in the county without interacting with cars and in my experience there is sufficient traffic on the path in all segments on weekends to justify the road closure. Further, weekend park use is often seen as purely for leisure but it also is a key part of the county's infrastructure for those who work weekends or need to run essential errands outside of weekday work hours. This is especially key as Purple Line delays push the reopening of the eastern CCT/GBT further into the future.</p>
305	If a cutback must be implemented, my preference would be to have differing hours or segments based on time of year as there certainly is a reduction in trail use in colder weather.

	Don't close the parkway on Friday. There is too much traffic on Fridays and not a lot of people use it Friday because they work.
306	Why close it during computing hours?
307	PLEASE KEEP BEACH DRIVE OPEN ON FRIDAY. The Kensington Parkwood community is adversely affected when Beach drive is closed all day on Friday. We see a lot more traffic through our neighborhood at unsafe speeds. If a Friday closing has to happen, please consider closing Beach drive Friday NIGHT at 7PM.
308	I would like to see the closure to vehicular vehicles made permanent. Beach Drive has become a wonderful hub of exercise and connection with nature, and it would be a shame to lose that, so thank you for this recommendation!
309	I am a member of the Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC), a running club with approximately 3,500 members. I greatly appreciate the efforts in creating the Beach Drive Open Parkway, which I frequently use for group runs and training programs. While I support restoring the original operating hours starting at 9:00 AM on Fridays, I kindly request that you continue including the 0.7-mile portion between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue. NO! Do not close Beach even earlier.  This would be an even greater inconvenience than the current Saturday-Sunday closure. Beach Drive is a critical access road for emergency services, which have to take longer routes because of these closures. Who do we take to court for that risk to life?  We also have to take longer routes to get to where we're going because of the closures, especially when it's to get to 495 to College Park. Who's paying for the extra gas and time? Accumulate those costs since you started closing Beach and multiply that by all the residents in Parkwood.
310	Take considerate actions that serve all, it's superficial ones that help your political careers. We ALL pay taxes but not ALL are inconvenienced by the closure.
311	I am a member of the Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC), a running club with approximately 3,500 members. I greatly appreciate the efforts in creating the Beach Drive Open Parkway, which I frequently use for group runs and training programs. While I support restoring the original operating hours starting at 9:00 AM on Fridays, I kindly request that you continue including the 0.7-mile portion between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue.
312	I agree with this proposal. It's great for overall safety and enjoyment to the local community.
313	I am a member of the Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC), a running club with approximately 3,500 members. I greatly appreciate the efforts in creating the Beach Drive Open Parkway, which I frequently use for group runs and training programs. While I support restoring the original operating hours starting at 9:00 AM on Fridays, I kindly request that you continue including the 0.7-mile portion between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue.
314	I am 100% in favor of closing Beach Dr to traffic on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and even extending it to holidays and when schools are not in session, i.e. the whole summer. We live on Parkwood drive and our house backs the park. Beach Drive is becoming an extension of the highway and motorists do not respect the 25mph limit; when one does, motorists behind become impatient and pushy. It's not pleasant at all and takes away from the benefits of having trees in the backyard. I would be fully in favor of adding speed bumps on Beach drive.  I am very glad a solution was found for residents on Culver Street. Cutting the portion of Beach drive that is closed to traffic on Fridays and on weekends seems like a thoughtful solution to me, and one that does not impact other residents or access to recreational space since that portion is not used as much according to studies.  We live on Parkwood drive and I have to say that I have not noticed a significant increase of cut-through traffic when Beach drive is closed to traffic. However I am aware that some Parkwood Drive residents have expressed concerns about cut-through traffic, which unfortunately is not a Friday only issue, but an everyday issue. It feels like car traffic and passage is only increasing in our area, and I would like the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to work with the county to consider an array of traffic-calming and traffic-rerouting measures that could include traffic circles, more and better medians and safer pedestrian crossings, speed bumps, more trees (some planted in medians), signs that forbid through traffic at certain times, etc. And of course the more obvious, but the harder solution to implement in our suburban scapes, would be to get folks out of their cars in the first place; this can only be achieved with more and better common transportation and more walkable and bikeable lanes. I am considering leaving MoCo to go to a place that is more walkable and less car-centered as soon as my kids are done with high school.
314	Finally, one argument that could be made to reluctant residents regarding the extended closure of Beach Dr. to cars is the real estate value of their houses. A more walkable area is more valuable on the market.
315	As a runner and cyclist I appreciate access to the full length of traffic closure and would oppose changes to reduce the distance closed to traffic for pedestrian / recreational use.  As I primarily use the space on weekends I am not opposed to shortening the time of closure on Friday mornings to enable commuting traffic. This seems like a reasonable trade-off to seek balance in order to preserve the full length of the Open Parkway Program during active times over the weekend.
316	I am 100% in favor of closing Beach Drive on Fridays, starting at 9 AM.  This would be a wonderful addition to our neighborhood, to have a treasure of a park open for pedestrians more often. It's a beautiful section of the park - I've seen owls and eagles and foxes as well as an abundance of other types of birds and wildlife.  I live on Parkwood Drive and have not seen any of the traffic or congestion that others have seen. There is very little traffic at all on Parkwood Drive on any day.  What I do notice is the "traffic" on Beach Drive when it is closed. It is filled with walkers, runners, bikers, skaters, families, dog walkers, bird watchers, and groups of friends, to name a few.  I love being able to pop out onto Beach Drive when it is closed to cars, be it for a walk or a run or a bike ride, and feel safe to go along my way without cars going by. The Park is a treasure for all to enjoy. I don't see how cars are enjoying Beach Drive as a park when they drive by. The park was not designated for commuting. The park was designated for the public to enjoy.  Cars can just as easily take another parallel route - Wisconsin Ave or Parkwood Drive, and leave the park to the motorless public.
317	I approve, great idea
318	Please keep everything without any change, this route is a perfect place for us to walk/run/bike on the weekends.
319	I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I write to wholeheartedly support the proposed change to the Open Parkways Program ("Program") to permanently reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue. Since the inception of the Program our neighborhood association has advocated that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to permanently reopen this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood. The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the Program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the closure of this .7-mile Beach Drive segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes. There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the Program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe that prompted the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind. Re-opening this particular Beach Drive segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Drive has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the Program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach Drive pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased. The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Drive is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.
320	Longer hours of cycling and running use please!!! Such a great asset, nice opportunity to get the family out in a safe space. As a driver as well the closure doesn't make much of an impact
321	I think at a minimum keep the 2.9 mile section because on the weekends I use beach dr to get down to dc by bike instead of riding on RCT. Reopening that .7mi stretch would make it seem incongruent. I guess more people have free time then I'm led to believe the extra time Friday morning doesn't seem as beneficial. I would rather keep it weekend hours, or close it off Friday night. Has there been any consideration to making it one way directional in-am-out-pm during the week with the other lane closed off, that'd be nice riding too and from dc during the week.

322	<p>I am in favor of this plan. It seems like a great solution to allow for recreation while still allowing cars to use the Cedar Lane/Connecticut section of Beach Drive. My preference would be to have the entirety of the Beach Drive closed to traffic, and believe that with better mitigation measures, it could be favorable to most residents in the area. However, closing the Knowles/Cedar Lane section of the Parkway seems appropriate, as there is parking available for users on the north side of Knowles. As a resident on Parkwood Dr., I did not see any problematic increase on my street when the Parkway was closed on Fridays. I have recently noticed an increase in traffic, however, throughout the entire week. It's very possible that even with Beach Drive open, there are so many cars, that Parkwood Dr. is being used as an alternate. It seems that leaving Beach Drive open, I supposed in an attempt to alleviate traffic in the neighborhood, doesn't really have that effect. In this case, I don't see a benefit to having Beach Drive open to cars. If residents are concerned that more traffic will come through the neighborhood, the streets could be limited to residents only. (I have seen signs like this on several Montgomery County streets.) The real question is lost with this suggestion about a partial closure of Beach Drive however. There are too many cars in this area. Not too few roads, but too many cars, and it would be really great if effort and money were put into finding a solution for this problem, such as a major investment in public transportation, walkable communities, and bike lanes. People have no choice now regarding whether to use a car or not, and this really needs to change. We need better public transportation to get people out of their cars.</p>
323	<p>While I appreciate Montgomery Parks' efforts to address the cut-through traffic issues on Culver Street by reducing the southern endpoint of the Open Parkway to Cedar Lane, I believe the proposed new operating hours could be further optimized.</p> <p>Instead of closing Beach Drive at 9am on Fridays, the closure should begin at 10am. This extra hour would allow local parents to complete the elementary school drop-off without worrying about altered traffic patterns impacting their route or timing. Many working parents rely on Beach Drive access on Friday mornings to get their kids to school and themselves to work on time. A 10am closure start time on Fridays is a reasonable compromise.</p> <p>Additionally, I'd argue the Sunday evening re-opening time should be extended later, to 8pm during Standard Time and 9pm during Daylight Savings Time. This would allow families more opportunity to take recreational bike rides or walks along Beach Drive after dinner, especially during the longer summer evenings. The current 4pm/6pm re-opening times on Sundays feel too early and cut off prime recreational access time in the early evenings.</p> <p>So in summary, my pragmatic suggestion would be for the new Beach Drive Open Parkway hours to be:  Fridays 10am - Sundays 6pm (Standard Time)  Fridays 10am - Sundays 9pm (Daylight Savings Time)</p> <p>This still achieves the goal of eliminating cut-through traffic on Culver Street by moving the endpoint to Cedar Lane, while optimizing the hours slightly further to better accommodate school drop-off routines on Fridays and recreational use on Sunday evenings. Small changes on each end of the weekend schedule could make a meaningful difference for many local families and park users, without substantially impacting overall traffic patterns. I hope Montgomery Parks will consider this input as they finalize the new permanent Open Parkway plan.</p>
324	<p>This would be terrible for people who are using the linear park. This entire project has demonstrated a commitment of Montgomery County towards going Green, towards bicyclist and pedestrian safety, and towards a less driving-oriented society. Reducing the coverage area would be terrible for the county's message towards these valuable groups. Who is the county actually supposed to be serving? In my opinion, it is necessary for the county to promote alternate forms of transportation whenever possible. Please make the change to operate starting on Friday instead of Saturday. And, please DO NOT END THE CONNECTICUT</p>
	<p>portion. This would produce an especially heavy burden on cyclists, as the light at Connecticut often gets very backed up with traffic, and the whole point of the closed off park is to not have traffic. Please consider this.</p>
	<p>PLEASE don't open the parkway to bikers/runners on Fridays until after rush hour!!! Even in the summer. That's my 2 cents. TY</p>
326	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to respond. I oppose this revision. As a resident of the Parkwood neighborhood and a regular weekend user of the full extent of the closure for exercise and recreation, I prefer that the closing of Beach Drive remain in its current configuration of 2.9 miles from Knowles to Connecticut from Saturday at 7:00 a.m. until Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Standard/6:00 p.m. DST. I believe there are better ways to manage cut-through traffic, besides which I don't actually think this plan will do anything to mitigate cut-through traffic. If we can't do better than to cave to the bad/ignorant/impatient drivers, eventually, over time, the same excuse will be made to end the Beach Drive closure altogether. I think this is where we need to get creative and generate more effective traffic management ideas, not end a popular program because people can't behave themselves.</p>
327	<p>Weekend pedestrian and bike use of Beach Drive is so important to people not only in the neighborhood but throughout the DC area. When I lived in DC, I rode my bike on Beach Drive nearly every weekend. I favor keeping as much of Beach Drive closed to traffic as possible, for the longest hours possible. Keeping the existing sections of Beach Drive closed on weekends and adding Fridays would be great. If the question is more days of closure or more length of road closed, I prefer more length of road closed to cars. Thank you.</p>
328	<p>I am entirely against ANY closure of Beach Dr on FRI. SAT OR SUN. I spent 20 yrs saving to buy a house in this area adjacent to Beach Dr. WHY should I have to drive miles out of my way to use my car on three days of the week or ANY day of the week. I am older now and can't afford this extra expense in my life. Additionally, the closure of Beach Dr detours LOTS of cars into neighboring residential streets. Streets are narrow and few houses have driveways/garages. This puts all living here in safety danger and is not tolerable to do to homeowners.</p>
329	<p>I fully support the beach drive open parkway from Knowles Ave to cedar lane, from Saturdays at 7am until Sundays at 6pm. However, I have very serious concerns about restoring the operating hours on Fridays. We also experience cut through traffic in Parkwood, and I am the mom of two elementary school kids who attend Kensington Parkwood and need to be able to safely walk to and from school by themselves on the days that I cannot escort them due to work obligations. I would support starting hours at 6pm on Fridays for the beach drive open parkway, after the students have arrived home from school or after-school activities.</p>
330	<p>I think it should be close to cars and open to people every day but this is a good change. I support the extended hours/days of road closure to the cars. Thanks.</p>
331	<p>I'd love restoration of closure to between 9:00 a.m. Friday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday! As a retiree I will use the closed road for however much time exists. However, I do use the entire length from Knowles to Connecticut for bike rides and longer runs, so I'm not so happy about making the length significantly shorter. Thank you.</p>
332	<p>Let's make parks for people and animals. Cars don't belong in national parks!</p>
333	<p>I live a few blocks from the Beach drive closure section. Thus, when it is closed, both the distance and duration of my exit from my neighborhood is slightly increased by having to go around the closure. However, the benefits of this closure far and away exceed this small inconvenience. The Beach Drive open parkway is one of the best ways that public street can be used. Each and every week, my family and I bike, stroll, and walk our dog there. It serves as a neighborhood gathering place and the closure provides a calm and safe place to experience nature in a unique way that is not provided elsewhere in the County's parks. It is a crucial place to ride a bike, especially given the astonishingly low implementation of protected bike lanes in the County. Given how few places it is possible to ride a road bike without taking your life in your hands by mingling with distracted car drivers, it is appalling that MoCo parks would consider shortening the distance of the closure! The Beach drive closure should be extended, not shortened! There are numerous alternative routes. And yes, those routes should be used! I commonly drive to Connecticut Avenue on Culver Street, since that is the easiest path to get there. I drive it at various times of day, and on numerous days of the week. There are rarely any other cars- even when Beach is closed. I do not observe an impact on that street from the closure of Beach. In fact, there are many streets going up to Kensington that cross between Cedar and Connecticut. As a taxpayer and property owner I hope the County will stop pitting cars against recreation, since many of us do both! I support prioritizing green and healthy use of our infrastructure, and call on MoCo Parks to INCREASE both the time and distance of the Beach Avenue closure.</p>
334	<p>Agree</p>
335	<p>I strongly support expanding the Beach Drive Open Parkway to the original operating hours from 9AM Friday to 4PM Sunday. Additional time on Friday during the day and evening will enable me to use the parkway for safer weekday access to the Metro Red Line at Grosvenor-Strathmore station, and for my family to use the parkway for evening recreation.</p>
336	<p>Please keep Beach Dr closed so we may use it recreationally. Thank you.</p>
337	<p>As an avid runner and member of the Kensington community, I propose keeping the extended section of closed road from Knowles to Connecticut avenue. With summer training programs ramping up for the year, I believe keeping the additional section of closed road would be appreciated by many runners, bikers, and walkers. Due to the general increase in traffic flow post pandemic, I would recommend keeping the hours starting Saturdays at 7am rather than have the road closures affect commuter traffic on Fridays.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
338	<p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood. The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes. There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind. Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and cyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased. The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.</p>
339	<p>I appreciate the closure of Beach Drive and fully support adjusting to the former hours (Friday through Sunday). Families and individuals are able to take advantage of the park in ways they are not otherwise able if the road is opened. I live in the area (near Mormon temple) and don't experience Beach being closed as a hardship at all.</p>

	<p>As a distance runner and member of the Montgomery County Road Runners Club, I run on Beach Drive every weekend. This resource has been critical to the physical and mental health of countless residents. On weekends, it's often packed with runners, cyclists, rollerbladers, dog walkers, families with strollers, grandparents, groups of friends, birdwatchers, and people of all ages and all levels of fitness. It's a place for people to meet and enjoy fresh air and access to nature.</p> <p>Having the full distance available to us, from Knowles to Connecticut, is tremendously valuable to our county's citizens. I strongly support keeping the full length of the road closed to traffic. In addition, I urge you to restore the Friday closure, which offered many people who cannot exercise on weekends an opportunity for recreation.</p> <p>The Montgomery County Road Runners Club regularly uses Beach Drive for group runs of up to 20 miles. This resource is so valuable to us. We use the full distance now for our long runs. If we lost the section from Cedar to Connecticut, we would be forced to either compete with traffic by running in the road or to overwhelm the narrow walkers' path on the side with our group. Our group runs attract 20-40 people and we have runs on both days of the weekend. We depend on having the full distance available and the road closed to traffic, for the safety of our runners and comfort of other recreational users.</p> <p>I understand that a small number of residents in adjacent neighborhoods have seen increased traffic on their streets due to the closure of Beach Drive. This is a normal and minor consequence of the closure that is more than compensated for by the benefits of this closure. Traffic around the county is a fact of life. It's why access to nature and quiet on Beach Drive means so much.</p>
340	<p>In summary, I support restoring the original operating hours of the Beach Drive closure starting at 9:00 AM on Fridays, and I support the full closure from Knowles to Connecticut Avenue. Thank you for reading my comments.</p>
341	<p>Please do not close the street any additional time and leave it only Saturday and Sunday DO NOT add Friday. It is hard to drive home without having Beach especially Friday afternoon and it is hard to have traffic run through neighborhoods.</p>
	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Beach Drive Open Parkway Modification proposal. We live less than a block from Beach Drive on Brookfield Drive and use the path and road almost every day. We believe that the closure of Beach Drive to cars on weekends has significantly benefited the walkers, runners, and bikers in our community. We strongly support making the Beach Drive closure permanent.</p> <p>As for the proposed modifications, we understand the need to reduce the cut-through traffic experienced on Culver Street and neighboring streets. While the staff report mentions possibly including signage to direct traffic for the detour, there is currently no effective signage on Cedar Lane or Connecticut Avenue. We did not notice the existence of the current signs until this week when this proposal was posted. Rather than reduce the Beach Drive closure by .7 miles, could the signs be improved, possibly with lights on the weekends, which are often used near schools during school hours. The signs should direct drivers to Saul Road and then measure the impact of the improved signage on the number of cars that continue to use Culver Street on weekends? If the enhanced signs do not reduce traffic, then we support the reduction of the open road as proposed. However, it seems that installing more effective signage to direct traffic to Saul Road should be tried first before implementing this change.</p> <p>Leslie Fried and Jeff Cohen</p>
342	<p>I do not agree! Closing the road from 9am Friday will inconvenience a significant number of Parkwood residents and benefit a relatively small minority of people. Most people work on Friday and use this road to commute. Closing it over the weekend is a compromise that does benefit people in general. Closing it at</p>
343	<p>9am on a Friday appears to be for reasons other than providing an ADDITIONAL bike/walking track.</p>
	<p>I fully support reducing the overall extent of the closure to allow the portion of Beach Drive between Connecticut Ave and Cedar Lane to remain open at the proposed times. The amount of traffic that reroutes through my neighborhood on Culver Street is dangerous and unacceptable. Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands is filled with children and residents who enjoy walking in the neighborhood. It has not been possible to walk safely on Culver Street since the park closures began due to the volume and speed of the traffic using this stretch as a cut through.</p> <p>I STRONGLY oppose the closure on Fridays. This is a work day and many drivers use portions of the park in their commute to work. This will lead to dangerous conditions in the surrounding neighborhoods which will be used to bypass the closure. Children are in school on Fridays for the majority of the year. This will put the many children who walk to/from school at risk. This is simply a terrible idea.</p>
344	<p>I oppose this new plan of closing Beach Drive beginning Friday mornings. Beach Drive is an integral commuting route during the work and school week. In particular, school buses serving Kensington Parkwood elementary school and Walter Johnson High School use this route. If Beach Drive is closed, the students are subjected to longer commutes. Moreover, the route serves workers and those using Beach Drive between Connecticut and Cedar. Therefore, it is ironic that the Culver Street homes won't have Beach Drive closed between Connecticut and Cedar at all during the weekend but the Parkwood Drive homes will be impacted</p>
345	<p>AND the closure would be increased to include commuting and school days. I very much oppose this new plan. Please keep the auto closure of Beach Drive to just Saturday and Sundays./</p>
346	<p>I live immediately adjacent to Beach Drive and the trail entrance. From my experience the road closure on Fridays benefits only those with the luxury of being retired/stay at home parents to the detriment of neighbors trying to get to work via Rockville Pike or the Metro at Grosvenor/Strathmore. Closing this section of the parkway on a weekday adds seven minutes to my morning commute and seems to result in much longer backups at the Cedar Lane/355 intersection (and increased idling emissions). The cut-through traffic on Parkwood Drive is much higher on Fridays when the parkway is closed and because these are presumably</p>
	<p>mostly non-residents there is little regard for speed limits or respectful driving.</p> <p>I am very happy to hear that 0.7-mile section between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on Beach Drive, due to lower usage and to address neighborhood traffic concerns, is going to stay open to cars on Saturday, Sundays and Holidays. I live Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands and have been very concerned for my safety since the closure of Beach Drive. Traffic was absolutely horrific on Culver Street on Fridays when you closed Beach Drive during the pandemic. It was scary and I had to hold on to my autistic son's arm the whole time because vehicles were going too fast and there were so many of them. And we don't have sidewalks! Also, most of the houses don't have garages so homeowners park on the street. The weekend days aren't quite as bad as the Fridays were, but they are still scary- with the same issues.</p> <p>I used to walk in the park along Beach Drive from Connecticut Avenue then walk up Cedar Lane and get on Culver Street. Because I have had spine issues, I'm reluctant to walk along Beach Drive on the weekends in case my spine gives me issues and I can't get help from my husband to pick me up with his car. Having it open will make it easier for my confidence.</p> <p>When you are used to driving on Beach Drive, like I am, you automatically use it. (I live very close to Connecticut Ave. ) And when my autistic son had a Grand Mal Seizure on Thanksgiving 2021, and he was too scared to go into an ambulance, so I had to take him to Suburban Hospital, I naturally went to Beach Drive- and it was closed! (for nighttime bicyclists?) I had to go up to Jones Bridge Road- which, of course, took longer.</p> <p>The bicyclists will probably not like this decision- having to share a road designed for car traffic with cars, but they almost NEVER use the bike path underpass at Connecticut Avenue! They prefer crossing Connecticut Avenue. (They also could use the "bike path" along Beach Drive.)</p> <p>I'm glad you are not waiting for someone to get maimed or killed on Culver Street before you rescind the 0.7 mile Beach Drive closure!</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nancy DeVierno</p>
347	<p>I bike this stretch quite often and hope they will not reduce the closure of Beach Drive. Only wish it was extended somewhat.</p>
	<p>Very sad that our county does so much to encourage all of us to drive..</p>
	<p>After 35 years of cycling to work every day, I now feel more encourage to drive instead.</p>
348	<p>I am now very fortunate to have retired and survived so many years of bicycle commuting without incident..</p>

	<p>I am and have been a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands for the past thirty years. My husband and I have raised our three children in this neighborhood, a neighborhood filled with families, elderly neighbors, and young children. Given that the neighborhood has very few sidewalks, most residents walk in the street, coexisting with cars and bicycles. For the last several years, the county's well-intentioned Open Parkways program has actually placed our neighborhood residents at greater risk. We are far less safe on the streets in our neighborhood on weekends than we were several years ago. For this reason, I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly shows that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. As Beach Dr. pedestrian/cyclist usage has decreased, car traffic in our neighborhood increased, placing all residents at greater risk of harm.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common-sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without dodging the many cars traversing the streets on weekends and without fear of being hit by a cut through car.</p>
349	
350	Against restoring any Friday hours that close this section of beach dr. The beach dr existing path is sufficient. Closing frustrates communities that are driving and increases neighborhood traffic.
351	Please consider delaying Friday closures until 12 noon or 4pm so that most school and commuter traffic is not impacted. Thank you.
352	I am writing to express my support in favor of the proposed recommendation to shorten the Beach Drive "extents" and re-open Beach Drive on Saturdays and Sundays between Connecticut and Culver. As a physician, my greatest concern is the safety of pedestrians and drivers in our neighborhood and while there is a bike path for use by pedestrians on Beach Drive there are no sidewalks on Culver Street, which is used as the traffic cut through. This has created numerous hazardous scenarios on Culver Street on the weekends, when cars not familiar with the neighborhood and the many children and dog walkers speed through in an attempt to get to their destination.
353	As a resident of the neighborhood, I want to express my support in favor of the proposed recommendation to shorten the Beach Drive "extents" and re-open Beach Drive on Saturdays and Sundays between Connecticut and Culver
354	I am a 30 year resident on Culver Street. Over the past few years when Beach Drive has been closed between Connecticut and Cedar, there has been a tremendous amount of traffic increase on the weekends. This has been particularly dangerous for my grandchildren when the visit with us, and for early morning walkers like myself. I strongly support the recommendation to eliminate the short 0.7 stretch of Beach Dr. between Connecticut and Cedar from the Open Parkway Program. This will eliminate the cut thru traffic and restore the peace and serenity to our neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration! Gregg Dyer
355	<p>Absolutely hate this plan - I'm an RN at Suburban hospital and this is my commute. My main artery is Beach Drive - having to go around with Wisconsin Ave/Rockville Pike down a lane because of Metro construction adds considerable traffic. Also there are two high schools - Stone Ridge on Cedar and Holy Cross on Strathmore that make sure commuting is very backed up. I want Beach Drive back open to cars all the time - I am tired of how much added traffic/parking problems I see in my neighborhood every weekend. Also - since the Park has regulated opening and shutting the gates to volunteers - many a Monday am has been horrible because the gates are still closed. please realize that this a major commute route for the not only for my neighborhood who rely on Beach Drive but also the ones who commute through our neighborhood and thus lessen the load on Cedar and Strathmore- NIH, Walter Reed and Bethesda workers. Thank you - please don't do this. Margaret Kelly</p> <p>Please don't close Beach Dr until well after the Friday evening rush hour.</p>
356	<p>A lot of cars use Beach Dr/Grosvenor La to get out of our neighborhood onto Rockville Pike or Grosvenor Lane. It gets quite busy on Friday afternoon. If you close Beach Dr on Friday, all these cars have to go to Cedar Lane and thence to Rockville Pike. Cedar La/Rockville Pike is already a failed intersection. How is dumping this additional traffic going to help?</p> <p>I live on Woodfield Rd near the school, and often need to go north on Rockville Pike. It takes an extra 8 – 10 minutes **at the best of times** if I can't get out via Franklin to Beach to Grosvenor, because I then need to go south to Cedar Lane and take that to Rockville Pike, and then head north again. During rush hour, of course, it's far worse – Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike is a failed intersection, and I have to wait multiple light cycles. During the Friday evening rush hour it can add as much as 20 minutes if I can't use Beach Dr to Grosvenor.</p> <p>Use of Beach Dr by walkers and bike riders is also much lower on Fridays than on the weekend.</p> <p>The Friday closure is a major inconvenience to many of us in Parkwood.</p> <p>I don't see the point of dumping a lot more cars onto an already failed intersection.</p>
357	Please don't close Beach Dr until well after the Friday evening rush hour.
358	<p>I live in Parkwood a quarter mile from the section of Beach drive in question. Please do not close Beach Drive on Fridays. Who has done this cost benefit analysis? I cannot understand why you would inconvenience hundreds/thousands of residents and commuters on Fridays so that less than 50 people can use a two mile stretch of road that parallels a path in Rock Creek. Closing Beach drive would not only inconvenience those of us that live here but create a ripple affect on traffic for all surrounding streets. Cutting off access to Rockville Pike from Beach Drive on Fridays will cause people to have to drive all around on Strathmore/Knowles or Cedar, causing unnecessarily longer drives and increased traffic on those roads - it makes no sense! It was one thing during Covid when everyone was working or schooling from home, but now everyone is back to work and school, not walking on Beach Drive on Friday. I work from home, when I do want to walk on Fridays - I use the beautiful path. It is not crowded. So why do we need the road closed to cars - we DO NOT!! Please use common sense a think of the needs of the many rather than 20 people who want to walk/bike on a two mile road that parallels a safe beautiful path.</p> <p>Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board:</p> <p>We have been residents of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands for 42 years, and we are writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our church and school, as well as another church, are located within these streets, there are lots of children walking to and from, including weekends because of the basketball, baseball, soccer, and football activities on these grounds. Additionally, there are many other planned weekend activities sponsored at both locations where the community walks to. Cedar and Saul Roads (both state roads) provide direct access to these facilities for cars without traversing the neighborhood and without posing any additional threat to the safety of our community as a cut-through, as the diverted traffic from Beach Drive does.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday cut-through traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on the neighborhood streets without fear of being hit by a cut-through car and feel that our neighborhood is safer.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Pierron and Barbara Leef 9420 Byeforde Road Kensington, MD 20895</p>
359	This proposal is unnecessary. The closure of the parkway during COVID made sense. It no longer does. Leave the parkway open to cars Monday thru Friday. Having it closed to cars on weekends is enough.

Hello. I have lived at 9616 Culver St with my wife and three children since 2016. Since the weekend Beach Dr closure we have noticed significant increase in cut-thru traffic between Connecticut and Cedar. This has caused serious safety issues on the street and throughout the neighborhood. In one recent example, I was almost hit as I was mowing my yard and stepped slightly into the street to turn the mower. As I did a motorist traveling at no less than 45 MPH zoomed past me at a distance of 4-5 feet (they had swerved around a parked car). I yelled at the driver to slow down only to be recieved a middle finger shoved out the window. I think that any reasonable person would conclude that the safety of residents and children in a neighborhood outweighs any perceived benefit to cyclists of a 0.7 mile stretch of Beach Dr. I urge you to approve this recommendation as soon as possible.

360 Thank you!

I support Montgomery Parks' recommendation! I am a runner and a cyclist using this 2 + miles frequently. Since the Friday opening to traffic I have witnessed cyclists and runners trying to use the road, unsafely, and there are definitely a lot of people who want to be able to use Beach Drive for exercise on Fridays. On Saturdays and Sundays I do not see problems with usage of Knowles or Cedar Lane, the alternative routes, and would suggest that although there are times of greater traffic, these alternative routes work just fine.

362 Please maintain closure all the way to Connecticut Fri morning through Sun evening.

I like the parkway open as much as possible for as long as possible! Really makes my biking and walking trips more pleasurable. Thank you for considering my feedback!

363

364 This is such a gift to people, young and old, mobile and in wheelchairs and bikes and strollers and skates. Such a lovely way to promote community and health and safety and accessibility for all.

365 Please make sure this happen, it sounds great

366 I support adding Friday to the no-car period but preserving the Saturday and Sunday restrictions as they are now.

Original hours were great.

The runs are too broken up and too short. Both here and Sligo Creek. The designs that have stretches open to traffic in between two closed sections of these parkways is confusing and creates all sorts of unpleasant interactions between cyclists and cars on the streets or cyclists and pedestrians on the trails.

Busiest day for people, slowest day for cars.

Give them nothing and take away the stretches that cause these problems.

Lengthen and extend the closures.

And most importantly, make them more appealing by bringing in retail. Montgomery County and DC-area parks are universally disappointing in the absence of basic retail. Coffee and ice cream should be trivially easy to obtain in these areas on these dates. Exempt the odd snowcone truck or coffee cargo bike from what  
367 ever counterproductive policies are hindering their presence today. Please!



395	Hello, I am a cycle commuter from a bit farther south (MD - DC border) who got off Connecticut Ave to cycle in our lovely park. Not shortening the car free area would encourage others to do the same, particularly if car free extends all week. Also, please extend Sunday evening car free at least until dark. I ride this section to Lake Needwood on weekends and appreciate cooler evening rides. Let cars use more regular streets like Connecticut Ave. Thanks!
397	I am requesting that you keep ALL current segments (Knowles to CT Ave, Jof Beach Dr. OPEN to cyclists and pedestrians and CLOSED to car TRAFFIC AT least on Sat 7 AM to Sunday 4 PM. This open roadway provides a safe alternative for many cyclists and pedestrians who use this area. Yes there is a trail but it is narrow and winding and busy. The current trail might not be able to handle the volume of pedestrian traffic that now exists if the road was closed. The space of the road creates a wide open space for all.... Strollers, dog walkers, skaters, bikes, walkers, etc. at the same time. I use bike drive about 3 times a week as a pedestrian/cyclist. It is sometimes scary with the way the drivers behave. PLEASE PLEASE keep the road OPEN FOR ALL PEDESTRIANS!!!
396	Thank you for your consideration.
397	I do not the car free route shortened. I would love to keep the beach drive closure permanent! This is great for our community. My family, and frankly, most people I know, love using Beach Drive on the weekends to walk or bike.
398	We love the weekend closure and it has been a huge benefit to our family and our small children learning to ride bikes in a safe, flat, and wide roadway. I support making the closure permanent but I would like the full extent (to Connecticut) to continue as well. That Cedar to Connecticut section is closer to an area (Kensington Heights/Wheaton, where we live) that is both very hilly and has limited safe on-street areas for small kids to bike. We've used that portion of the closure for that purpose and I'd encourage Parks to think about proximity to areas that lack the youth-biking benefits the closure provides.
399	Please keep the current closure regime in place. During the pandemic, we became avid bike riders in the county and this particular weekend closure opened an important artery we had otherwise felt unsafe riding, and we did not want to ride our bikes on the path in this section as it is narrower and dangerous to pedestrians, particularly at the intersections when normal traffic flow occurs. Bike riding within the county is important to us, and we want to be able to maintain our ability to get east-west in the county to Rockville and North Bethesda on weekends.
400	I am a DC resident and I really enjoy the current modified system, which keeps beach drive closed to traffic on the weekends. It makes me feel safer when I bike from DC into Montgomery County for shopping and eating out on the weekends. I also feel like I am able to spend more time out when I bike there because I'm not worried about parking or traffic. If it changed, I would probably stick to shopping and restaurants in DC more often.
401	I love the fact that Beach Drive is closed to cars on weekends, and it will be even better if Fridays are included. I am extremely happy that this is going to be permanent. Amenities like this make me proud to call Montgomery County my home and to live in a place that is safe for cyclists and families to play outdoors.
402	Please keep Beach Drive closed to cars. This stretch is such a treasure in the DC area and I've used to cycle, run, and walk.
403	Beach Drive has become an essential destination for many area cyclists and pedestrians. Reducing the closed section of Beach Drive to 2.2 miles will undoubtedly increase car traffic and speed in the total open section of Beach Drive. I am making this statement based on experience only because the park service does not seem to have studied it. Already the average car speed is well above the posted speed limit and this is poorly policed by the park service. In fact, as a frequent user of the Beach Drive, I usually see park police reopening the closed sections on Sunday evenings and not on the sections currently open to vehicles. Not only is opening Cedar to Connecticut probably going to increase the number of cars and the speed of those cars, it will reduce the number of family cyclists and cause for more congestion in the sections that remain closed. With more family cyclists jammed into a smaller space, there will be a greater potential for accidents. Also many family cyclists will be forced onto the Rock Creek Trail, which will endanger pedestrians and may reduce their usage of the trail. While the section between Cedar and Connecticut may not be used as much as the other sections, that does not justify opening it to traffic. If the national park service used that logic, they would close the C&O canal between Penneyfield Lock and Harper's Ferry because it is not used as much as the section closer to DC. Closing Beach Drive on Fridays would be nice, but it will be poorly used compared to Saturdays and Sundays. For most of the year, parents will work and their kids will be in school. In a couple of years, will the park service argue to close Beach Drive on Fridays because of low usage? Montgomery County already has a fragmented bike infrastructure that creates unsafe conditions for cyclists. Adding to that fragmentation without addressing any of the potential problems caused by it, will only increase the number of accidents.
404	Please keep it closed from Connecticut to Knowles. We use it every weekend
405	I strongly disagree with the proposed modification. People need more access to the outside, not less.
406	I fully support this plan! I love that beach drive is closed to cars on weekends and support having it closed on Friday as well.
407	I totally support this new plan. Having the parkway closed to cars on Fridays, even if that is only the reduced portion, is very valuable for our family to exercise together during the summer when the kids are home.
408	Would love to see beach stay closed to cars. Support the new plan
409	I would like to continue to see Beach Drive closed all the way to Connecticut Avenue on the weekends. Closing it at Cedar Lane will reduce cut through car traffic, but it will in turn, cause more congestion on the closed portion of the road between Knowles and Cedar for bikers and walkers; which negates the whole reason for closing the road to begin with. Please do not shorten this amazingly successful bike route and keep it as is, running all the way to Connecticut Avenue.
410	There are far too few places where individuals and families can safely walk, bike, rollerblade, etc. Beach Drive provides a wide space that is safe and enriching. While a similar opportunity exists on trails such as the Rock Creek Trail and the Capital Crescent Trail, neither of these alternatives has the wide space of Beach Drive. These other two areas are often crowded and on the verge of being unsafe due to their heavy usage among competing activities. While permanently closing Beach Drive to motor vehicle use would be ideal (e.g., to allow for safe non-motorized commuting), closing this section of the roadway only on the weekends seems like it is a good compromise.
411	Having Beach Drive closed to cars from Cedar Avenue to Knowles weekend from Friday to Sunday so it can be used by other forms of transportation and recreational vehicles is wonderful. Please make this weekend program permanent on Beach Drive.
412	With the increasing numbers of pedestrian and cyclists deaths, it is so important and appreciated to have spaces that are free from cars. Cars have many options and dominate shared space. Please preserve as much parkway as possible (including Cedar to CT ave) for human-powered enjoyment of the park, Friday to Sunday. Thanks!
413	Please keep Beach Drive cyclist friendly; don't shorten it. It would be wonderful as a permanent safe place to cycle without having to worry about a cars in Montgomery County.
414	Also, visual signs reminding drivers of blind on curves or certain hills when passing cyclists on those roads, Jones Mill Rd, & other roads like Falls, River Road, MacArthur Blvd (surrounding areas that can be seen on Strava heat map) would be good.
415	I would LOVE for the full extent of current road closures on Beach Drive to remain permanent. It's such a pleasure to be able to safely bike there on weekends. Thank you!
416	I like it how it is. Can't we find other solutions to the cut-through traffic?
417	I am against the proposal from Montgomery Parks. I am not convinced that this would reduce the cut-through traffic. I do not support this proposal and want to keep Beach Drive open on weekends and closed for traffic. It is great for families to enjoy walking on the trail.
418	I appreciate the closure of Beach Drive to cars and would like this closure to be permanent for the safety of bikers and pedestrians.
419	It's an absolute joy to have car free weekends on Beach Drive. Please keep it car free from Friday to Sunday. Thank you!
420	Please keep it closed on the weekend. I have used it multiple times for biking and so many families are on there it is much safer than if it were open. Keep it closed please!
421	As a resident of the neighborhood, I do not understand the rationale of extending the Beach Drive Open Parkway to include Fridays from 9am until the current Sunday pm 6pm (4pm fall/winter). I do not see how this addresses concerns about "cut-through traffic" as the closing of that section of Beach drive all day Friday will mean drivers seek alternative ways to past the closure to get through to Wisconsin or Cedar lane. Fridays, including driving through the neighborhoods. Currently, on Fridays, the traffic on Knowles heading towards Connecticut from Beach drive is already substantial, with backups frequent at rush hours on most afternoons, including Fridays. I oppose the this change. I prefer the closure hours remain as they currently are, from 7am Saturday through Sunday evening (4pm/6pm). Thank you.
422	Keep it all open as it currently is, with cars off it. Keep it for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
423	Please keep the 2.9 mile section closed to traffic!
424	Please keep this closed to car traffic permanently and as many days as possible! It is such a great resource for bikes, families, pedestrians, skaters, and others, and it's essential it be car free and open to all these wonderful communities. I am a strong advocate for making the closure of Beach Drive on the weekends (Friday morning through Sunday evening) permanent. It is such a valuable resource for our community's physical and mental health. We regularly take guests from out of town on walks or bike rides down Beach during closures and they rave about what a wonderful resource it is. I do worry that reducing the extent of the closure now opens up for future reductions when other residents complain about cut-through traffic, and I would like to see some consideration of alternative ways to reduce cut through traffic, or at least an effort to defer future reductions justified by complaints of displaced traffic.
425	I fully support keeping Beach Drive closed to cars on weekends, including Fridays. This initiative will significantly enhance the recreational experience for pedestrians, cyclists, and families, creating a safe and enjoyable environment for residents of Montgomery County, people throughout the DMV and visitors alike. I ask you to make this change permanent, as it promotes a healthier lifestyle and fosters a greater sense of community.
426	Please keep this part of Beach Drive car-free on the weekends.

	<p>I have lived on Culver Street backing to Beach Drive for the last 27 years. I am strongly IN FAVOR of the proposed recommendation to reduce the Beach Drive extents and re-open the 0.7 mile stretch of Beach Drive between Connecticut and Cedar. The closing of that small portion of Beach Drive has resulted in a traffic nightmare and unsafe conditions on Culver Street. As the data confirms, almost 1,000 cars use the cut-through when Beach Drive is closed. I walk Culver Street almost every day to the bus stop on Connecticut. There are no sidewalks on Culver, so residents walk in the street. When Beach Drive is closed, it is not safe to walk on Culver. On several occasions, my bag and umbrella have been brushed by cars using the street as a cut-through.</p> <p>It is particularly unsafe for young children or pets to be in the front yards on Culver when Beach Drive is closed. Culver is a neighborhood residential street, not a primary connector road like Beach Drive (which also has a dedicated and separate paved bicycle trail). There is no rational reason to close Beach Drive and divert vehicle traffic from a wider primary road onto a narrower secondary neighborhood street, especially when the primary road has an existing, paved bicycle trail, and the residential street is narrower, curbed and has no sidewalk or walking area. If the recommendation is not followed, it is only a matter of time before a child or a pet is hit by a car in the neighborhood.</p> <p>For background, I am also an experienced and avid bicyclist. I have ridden a bicycle across the United States, been a board advisor for decades to one of the largest youth bicycling touring companies in the United States and I have ridden most every paved trail in the DMV area and continue to do so on a regular basis (usually weekends). There is no harm to bicyclists by re-opening Beach Drive. Many bicyclists (including me) already ride the always open part of Beach Drive (or the separate bike trail) from Connecticut east to Stonybrook/Jones Mill (which typically sees more traffic due to Kensington Parkway) and further down Stonybrook/Jones Mill with even more traffic to enter Rock Creek Park. Just as those open parts of Beach Drive are not a current issue for thousands of cyclists, the re-opening of the short 0.7 mile section of Beach between Connecticut and Cedar would not have any impact on cyclists since: (i) slower cyclists can use the dedicated existing bike bath (as they currently do on the Bethesda Crescent, Trolley or East of Connecticut/Beach Drive Trails); (ii) faster cyclists can ride on Beach Drive, where the speed limit for cars is 25 mph. For a cyclist riding at a 12-20 mph pace, it is no problem to share the road with cars at roughly the same speed, just like the cyclists already do now on Beach between Connecticut and Stonybrook/Jones Mill; and (iii) cyclists who, for whatever reason, do not want to use the existing dedicated path or do not want to ride on Beach Drive could ride the sidewalks on Cedar or Connecticut to access Culver Street -- it would be much safer to divert cyclists onto Culver Street instead of dumping 1,000 cut-through cars a day on Saturdays and Sundays.</p>
427	<p>Re-open Beach Drive and return Culver Street to its intended purpose as a safe, residential neighborhood street. Stop diverting cars from a wider primary road with a dedicated biker-hiker paved trail onto a narrower residential street with no sidewalks and creating safety issues for residents.</p> <p>I very much enjoy being able to safely use Beach Drive to get from Wheaton to DC on the weekends. My ideal situation would be to keep the Knowles Ave to Connecticut Ave closed to cars, and have it start on Friday morning and go through Sunday evening.</p> <p>I've had so many great interactions with other cyclists, people using roller skis (which brings back TONS of good memories for me), runners, walkers, and families out using the all portions of the road that are closed to traffic.</p> <p>If "cut through" traffic is a concern for local residents, traffic calming measures should be installed to deter people from using side streets instead of major thoroughfares. The overall benefit means ALL traffic is slowed down, even when Beach Drive is open.</p>
428	<p>Either way, I'm very excited to hear that Beach Drive will remain a viable option for my weekend rides.</p> <p>Please keep the roadways closed to vehicular traffic on weekends permanently. It's so hard for cyclists and runners to get distance in without distracted drivers posing big risks on the roads. Closing them to vehicular traffic allows pedestrians to utilize the parkway safely and with plenty of space to spread out so bikes aren't in danger of inattentive dog owners, runners on the wrong side of the trail etc. Any modification should be ADDING roadway closures not taking them away.</p>
429	<p>I think leaving it open to bikes/pedestrians is very smart. There are so many people who use it and it ensures that people get outside!</p>
430	<p>I am not in favor of increasing the time that beach drive is closed. It is not great for the neighborhood as cars are using the neighborhood streets to skirt the closures. People still work Fridays, I believe, and will need to use the road for commuting. Also, Delmont lane does not have sidewalks which makes it even more dangerous for children in Byeford.</p>
431	<p>Seems like a bad idea and one that will promote even more car usage. What are the statistics about car traffic backups that support this change? Responding to car driver complaints about taking a detour are simply not statistics.</p>
432	<p>I enjoy having beach drive closed to cars on weekends, including Fridays. I am happy this will be a permanent change. Cars have hundreds of miles of road open to them 24/7. Pedestrians and cyclists should be able to enjoy a meager 2.2 miles of road 3 days per week.</p>
433	<p>Please do not extend the hours to include Fridays. Saturday and Sunday closure is sufficient for the open parkway.</p>
434	<p>Current system is perfect please do not change. In particular the segment from Cedar to Connecticut should remain closed as it is wonderful for runners and bikers. Closing beach on the weekend is widely appreciated by most residents. Deal with cut through traffic in some other way.</p>
435	<p>Beach should definitely be closed Friday, Sat and Sunday. Friday is a really popular biking day so the extra day of closures makes it safer for everyone. The original 2.9 miles should be retained. There are a variety of ways out of that neighborhood so they don't need to cut through on Beach on Friday.</p>
436	<p>I like the extended hours opening Beach Drive to pedestrians, dog walkers, baby strollers and cyclists (restricted only to cars). I do not like the shorter distance, ending at Cedar instead of Connecticut. Please make every effort to conserve Beach Drive for motorized use, and maximize Beach Drive as a safe space for people. There is very little safe space available in the DMV after so much land has been paved and converted to road, highways and parking lots. Moreover, the widespread dangers from distracted driving have mad such safe spaces more valuable. THANKS</p>
437	<p>It's wonderful as is. Close it to cars permanently as NPS did on Beach Drive in the District would be even better. Beach Drive is a rare slice of roadway that cyclists and pedestrians should be able to enjoy without auto traffic, noise, and pollution.</p>
438	<p>During the pandemic, the closure was wonderful for people who had limited options for exercise and to be out in the open. It has become so popular since then that those using the closure will not be happy if it goes away. Beach Drive, named for Major General Lansing Beach, was chief engineer for the United States Army. My guess is the only people wanting it back open are those that think that using a road thru a park for driving somewhere outside the park is more important. The NPS made the decision to close most of Beach Dr to thru traffic and if MD decides to reverse this would be terrible thing. I have been bike riding on Beach Drive for at least 40 years and I have come appreciate what an asset it is.</p>
439	<p>Thank you very much for making the Beach Drive open parkway permanent and including Friday. There is nothing like being able to ride most of the way home on a car free road after a stressful work week.</p> <p>Could you please keep the 2.9 mile length from Knowles Avenue to Connecticut Ave? Or extend it to JonesMill Road. Let's face it. There is very little space for safe bike riding in Lower Montgomery County. The little that we have does not land us safely to a destination.</p>
440	<p>Thank you for considering.</p>
441	<p>As a resident on Culver St with small kids, I am highly supportive of opening Beach Drive between Connecticut and Cedar to cars on the weekends. This will really reduce cut-through traffic and make the neighborhood safer for kids playing and biking on Culver St during the weekend. I am so appreciative that the Planning Board is considering this proposal and taking the time to review it.</p>
442	<p>I feel the reduced hours, Sat 7am to Sun 4pm, are perfect. It keeps cars off the neighborhood streets during the week, especially during school hours. I also feel the reduced extent of the closure is a good idea. I don't see many people on Beach Dr even when it is closed to traffic on Saturday &amp; Sunday. With the exception of the regular group of a couple dozen bicyclists Beach Drive, open or closed has very few pedestrians or bicyclists. Why close it to cars when the few people on it could easily use the existing bike/walking path that runs alongside it.</p>
443	<p>Please keep beach drive closed to cars as much as possible.</p>
444	<p>I support expanding, not limiting, the open parkway program. Beach drive, as well as the surrounding park space, supports a wide range of residents' activities. Limiting car usage on the weekends is a small price for the huge benefits of increased space for recreational activities.</p>
445	<p>Do not reduce the extent of the Open Parkway and instead, please make the Open Parkway permanent and 24/7.</p>
446	<p>I am in support of making these weekend closures permanent. I'm also supportive of including Friday in the closure. I'm not supportive of reducing the total length and question the actual impact of "cut-through traffic." Honestly, all of the traffic on Beach Drive should be there for the purpose of accessing recreation or not at all. It's a park, not a road. If a compromise must be made, this is acceptable but it would be great to back these decisions up with actual data and not just noisy complaints from wealthy neighborhoods.</p>
447	<p>I oppose this road closure. This is needed to keep Traffic off of Knowles Avenue &amp; Summit Avenue. Kensington will have more congestion if you Beach Drive is not open on weekends. Please strongly consider keeping it open to cars. Roads are for vehicular traffic. There are paths for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>
448	<p>In favor of the recommendation to open the Beach Drive " extents" . We need to have more safety in the neighborhood specifically Culver St. Thank you for listening. Dennis Sullivan</p>
449	<p>I do not want the area to be closed off</p>
450	<p>I LOVE having Beach drive closed to car traffic on the weekends. I feel much safer on the road by myself than on a path in a wooded area, and due to injury, I can only jog/walk on flat surfaces (the paths have more hills). Trying to teach my son how to ride a bike is more challenging on the paths due to the narrow path and so many people. Having the road closed just allows more room to not worry about moving over for others. The best part is that it is a great, and possibly the only, place around here that I can rollerblade. I live in a very hilly neighborhood and Beach drive is where I go for the exercise needs of my family. Finally, I feel more Covid safe with it being more spacious. I hope to see it all stay closed to car traffic and be made permanent!</p>
451	<p>I oppose reducing the section of closure and recommend keeping the entire section of closure as is. I also would establish and/or enforce no neighborhood cut thru during the closure periods.</p>
452	<p>I appreciate having the current road closures in place, but can understand the need for a reduction of the length. But if possible, it would be great to remain the full 2.9 miles. I feel that the closures are fine starting on Saturday morning, for the weekend and any holidays.</p>
453	<p>Please keep it closed—only on Saturday and Sunday—for the entire 2.9 miles to Connecticut Avenue!</p>
454	<p>As a Kensington resident, we have used and enjoyed having Beach Drive closed since the pandemic. Weekly family bike rides and walks have been a wonderful addition. Watching ng young kids have a safe place to bike without fear of cars is incredible! This has allowed them to build their independence, road safety, and road sharing skills which have benefitted their bike and walking on other roads. Please keep the road closed!</p>
455	<p>Beach drive needs to be open to vehicle traffic at all times, stop enabling the cyclists and think of commuters and regular people who need to go places.</p> <p>I use Beach Drive to get to and from work and avoid the awful Friday traffic on the 495. I hope it stays open on Fridays until 5:00 pm to be able to come home safely and quicker.</p> <p>During the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) my family and I have more time and are happy to use alternative routes and enjoy biking on Beach Drive so I hope the longest stretch stays closed.</p>
456	<p>However, if I had to choose, keeping it open to traffic on Wednesday is way more important. I can (and I do) bike elsewhere but to avoid the 495 traffic on a busy Friday this is by far the best option I have (my office is in Bethesda and I live in Forest Glen).</p>
457	<p>I like Beach Drive closed to cars on weekends, including Fridays, and holidays. I am glad this is going to be permanent.</p>
458	<p>I support the permanent Friday through Sunday Open Parkway arrangement proposed for Beach Drive. This is by far the best use of the parkway on weekends and is an excellent initiative by Montgomery Parks and the planning commission.</p>
459	<p>I am vehemently against extending the time that any portion of Beach Dr. is closed to car traffic. There are plenty of alternative routes for bikers (and there is even a bike path). I rely on that route for my commute, and the number of bikes is already far too high. If anything, we need police to make sure that bikers don't ride next to each other, blocking the road to cars who need to pass them, and follow traffic laws. My experience with the bikers on Beach Dr. is that they are inconsiderate of the fact that people are using that route to get to and from work. Their desire to exercise should not inconvenience drivers. KEEP BEACH DRIVE OPEN TO TRAFFIC!</p>

460	I strongly disagree with the proposal to close the Parkway starting at 9 a.m. on Fridays. Like may families residing in the the Parkwood community, the Parkway is an absolutely essential commuting route to and from work. This route is especially necessary while public school is in session for families with children attending Kensington-Parkwood Elementary school. Close the Parkway at 9 am on Friday will cause great hardship and stress on Parkwood families. It is obvious that no member of Montgomery Parks making this recommendation resides in Parkwood or has made a concerted attempt in canvassing the community at the household level.
461	I appreciate the parkway being closed to cars on weekends and am hopeful that the hours are extended permanently to include Fridays. It is a safe and predictable route for my cycling family and we look forward to using it long term.
462	Closing Beach drive on the additional Friday is a mistake. There is already enough high speed (>25 mph) traffic on Parkwood as it is, we do not need additional traffic through Parkwood on Fridays, or on the weekends for that matter. This was a pandemic era closure, in an attempt to provide outdoor recreational areas with proper social distancing. There is currently no need for this, so why don't we go back to the pre-pandemic era which was no Beach Drive closure at all. The bikes and cars can share the road as it was before and is the current law. The pedestrians can make use of the beach drive walking path. Thanks for hopefully listening.
463	I enjoy having beach drive closed to cars on weekends and holidays.
464	I would prefer beach de stay closed to cars on weekends and holidays.
465	I like the current schedule with beach drive being closed to cars on weekends and holidays.
466	I have lived in Mt Pleasant for 3 years and greatly value being able to bike, walk, and run on beach drive nearly every single day. Having this closed to cars has a huge impact on my safety and mental health. I support keeping this closed to cars especially on weekends. Thank you!
467	I think it should only close Saturday morning until Sunday night.
468	Love the idea of adding Fridays back. Would like to keep the stretch through Connecticut Ave. Cyclist and pedestrians will use it anyway and it may be a hazard
469	Close beach to traffic, from Friday 09:00 am until Sunday at 18:00 pm from East-West HWY all the way to Garrett Park Road.
470	I'd like the Beach closure to continue into the future. I'd also like the extant of the closure to go from Beach drive's westbound terminus at Garrett park road through to Kensington boulevard. The hours should also run from sunrise to sunset across the year to provide flexibility for people based on time of year.
471	I am an avid runner who enjoyed running on Beach Dr on Fridays when it used to be closed. However, I strongly oppose restoring the closure to Fridays. Knowles/Strathmore between Connecticut Ave and Rockville Pike is already extremely congested in both directions. Closing Beach Dr to traffic between Knowles and Cedar eliminates the exit from the Parkwood neighborhood to Rockville Pike via Grosvenor Lane and will lead to even more congestion on Knowles/Strathmore. Leaving Beach Dr closed to cars on Saturday and Sunday has the greatest positive impact on pedestrians and cyclists. Rock Creek Trail is more than adequate for Fridays.
472	Please don't shrink the section of Beach Dr. that is closed on weekends! I very frequently ride my bike up to Winding Creek park from Takoma Park on weekends, before taking the Matthew Henson Trail over to Layhill and then back down Sligo Creek Parkway to Takoma. The stretches of Beach Dr. that remain open to vehicles already pose enough risk to cyclists.
473	Keep the 2.9 miles
474	Keep it open on Fridays, close it on the weekend for recreation.
475	I support this recommendation. I would like Beach drive to be closed from Friday at 9:00 a.m. until Sunday afternoon.
476	I like having Beach closed to cars on the weekend
477	I support the reduction of the Open Parkway to eliminate closure of Beach Drive between Cedar and Connecticut. I appreciate Montgomery Parks' recognition that current mapping technology directs vast amounts of vehicular traffic to residential roads in a way that cannot be reduced by way-finding physical signage, and presents risk to residents of those roads that significantly outweighs any supposed benefit of the Open Parkway. This is particularly true given that cyclists and pedestrians have a dedicated pathway next to the vehicle route on Beach Drive, but there are no sidewalks along Culver.  Less important to me are the operating hours. I do not understand why any section of the Open Parkway should be in effect during the work-day on Friday. I understand its benefit on weekends, but closing it for one of the five workdays causes confusion for any commuters who might use Beach Drive regularly. The side-path along Beach Drive is more than sufficient capacity for users during the day on Friday.  Thank you for your consideration.  Darin Bartram Farragut Ave. Kensington, MD
478	Our family lives in Rock Creek Hills and attends school in the Byeforde/Parkwood area. We appreciate the closure and use the closed section for running and biking regularly. We also of course drive through the neighborhoods every day. The problem of cut through traffic seems to be greatly exaggerated and does not outweigh the value to the neighborhood of a closed Beach Drive. We moved here from 16th Street Heights in DC and used the closed section of Beach Drive there all the time as well; in fact, the appeal of a closed Beach Drive is part of the reason we selected this area of Montgomery County when moving. We strongly urge the continuation of the additional closed section and the restoration of Friday closure as well.
479	I am against closing Beach Drive at all on Fridays and want the short segment of Beach Drive from Franklin Street to Grosvenor Lane/Rockville Pike to stay open to cars at all times to let Parkwood residents efficiently enter and leave their neighborhood to access the beltway, Grosvenor metro, and areas west of Rockville Pike.  There are two types of impacts from the Beach Drive closure - increased cut through traffic on streets in Parkwood, and the increased travel time and inconvenience for Parkwood residents to enter and exit the neighborhood efficiently. For me, the increased travel time to enter/exit the neighborhood is important.  The planning study conducted ignores impacts on Parkwood residents to efficiently access Rockville Pike and the beltway. The short road segment from Beach at Franklin north to Beach at Grosvenor/Rockville Pike is crucial to efficiently reach Rockville Pike to go west on the beltway, to go across the Pike towards Montgomery mall, and to go north on Rockville Pike. This road segment is around 10% of the the distance from Connecticut to Knowles. The planning study did not collect data for how many cars enter or exit the neighborhood at Beach/Franklin, so you can't properly evaluate this road segment.  At a minimum I would like to see this short stretch of Beach Drive kept open at all times. There are multiple ways to implement this, including having pedestrians and slow bikers use the existing trail for this short segment of Beach Drive. There is currently a stretch of Rock Creek Parkway in DC that is open for cars even when the Parkway is closed on weekends.  Parkwood residents were not informed or included in planning this study, so the burdens on Parkwood residents of not being able to use Beach Drive to access Rockville Pike at Grosvenor was not even considered.  I have lived in Parkwood and used the trails in the park for 37 years, and feel that the trail in the park is totally adequate. As a biker, I also have shared the road with cars along Beach Drive without any problems. There are also so many not great weather days where Beach is closed and no one is using it, that I feel it is a real waste to close it for three days a week. At least allow residents to use the stretch from Franklin to Grosvenor to access Rockville Pike. Alternate routes have multiple traffic lights, school entrances that slow traffic, and heavy rush hour traffic that takes more time and adds stress for Parkwood residents. There are plenty of park spaces and trails for people to use.  Finally, a comment from a neighbor: Another consideration. I've noticed that when Beach is closed, Parkwood and Cedar becomes a destination itself as a park entry. The street gets congested and becomes parked up from Cedar to Conifer there. Lots of dangerous driving, kids in the road, wacky u-turns, bikes in the road etc as people kids and dogs unload. Every day Beach is closed, people are dumping food container garbage all over this segment of road. Finally, all these parked cars can make resident street parking at the houses on this stretch of Parkwood encumbered.
480	Thank you
481	Yes, this is great! Please extend the hours of this open parkway. Thank you!

	<p>I completely support MC Parks recommendation to eliminate the .7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue from the Open Parkways program. The MC Parks recommendation is data and pedestrian safety driven. I have lived in the Rock Creek Highlands neighborhood for over 20 years. Closing Beach Drive has turned what was a quiet, residential street the I live on - Culver Street - into a nightmare cut through street every Saturday and Sunday (and Friday before MC Parks wisely stopped the Friday closures December 2022).</p> <p>During the last traffic counts by MC Parks in September 2023, 963 cars travelled on Beach Drive on Saturday and 709 cars on Sunday. Over all 4 traffic counts MC DOT and MC Parks have conducted, Culver Street averaged just 350 cars on an average weekday. Thus, the Open Parkways closure of Beach Drive caused traffic volume on Culver Street to more than double every Sunday and nearly triple every Saturday as compared with weekday volumes when Beach Drive is open. Significantly, unlike Beach Drive that has a walking path, no parking on the street and is a double yellow line road, Culver Street does not have sidewalks and residents park on both sides of the street. I truly believe the County dodged a liability bullet. While multiple vehicles have been hit on Culver Street by cut through drivers, it was only a matter of time before a serious injury or death was caused by the beach Drive closure parallel to Culver Street.</p> <p>In the Spring of 2023, MC DOT recommended to MC Parks that it start the Beach Drive closure at Cedar Lane and only close Beach Drive for the 2.2 mile stretch to Knowles Avenue. In the future, MC Parks should be more willing to listen to the recommendation of MC DOT - the County's transportation experts. In conclusion, leaving the .7-mile section of Beach Drive between Connecticut Avenue and Cedar Lane open 24/7, 365 days a year (unless it is flooded) is long overdue.</p>
482	I vote for the longer hours for the shortened section between Knowles and Cedar.
483	Open parkways are absolutely wonderful and a gift and I hope they can be made permanent.
484	Keep Beach Drive open to people and closed to cars! This is a park not a commuter cut through.
485	<p>Do not shorten the open parkway. We need more spaces that is dedicated to no automotive use. This makes less. If anything, you should be expanding it to include all the roadway miles from the district line to East-West Highway, and include the Jones Mill Road section from East-West Highway to the restart of Beach Drive, then keep it close all the way until it meets up with Rockville Pike at Grosvenor Lane. We need much better, separated, and closed ways to move around the county. We also need it to be closed all of turnstile for use to truly spike and become a generator for more mode shift in a warming climate, not just on the weekends.</p> <p>What would be an interesting extra use is the introduction of bus access for both Sligo Creek Parkway and Beach Drive to help people move through the areas without their cars.</p>
486	Do not reopen any currently closed section. Close the whole thing to single occupancy vehicles and open it up to pedestrians, bikes, and buses.
487	I would prefer if Beach Drive was closed to cars all the time. We need to make cycling safer in Montgomery County. Connecticut Ave, Georgia Ave, E-W Hwy, etc. are completely choked with cars, exhaust, and noise every day.
488	I support this initiative to close Beach on Friday.
489	Thank you for your efforts. This will improve quality of life.
490	Thank you for making this a permanent change, and expanding the closure to Friday-Sunday!
491	<p>I am completely AGAINST the Montgomery Parks plan to extend the closure of Beach Drive to include Fridays! This is a TERRIBLE and UNFAIR plan. No. 1, Friday is a business day! Businesses are trying to return to normalcy. When you impede people's commutes and confuse drivers, you disrupt their lives unfairly. Travelling to and from work, medical appointments, and shopping is extremely difficult for those of us who live in Parkwood when Beach Drive is closed. It was such a relief when Beach Drive was reopened on Fridays. No. 2, the Friday traffic jams. When the old schedule was in effect the Friday traffic on Cedar Lane and Strathmore Ave. was a nightmare at rush hour. I would elect not to go to stores, restaurants, businesses rather than get stuck in the Friday traffic. No. 3, the additional miles we were forced to drive has to have had an environmental impact. When Beach Drive is closed I have to drive miles out of my way to get to the Grosvenor Metro. No. 4, Garrett Park will be unfairly affected by your change as the detour sends hundreds of extra vehicles through their already clogged main road.</p> <p>What is especially troubling to those of us in Parkwood is the Culver Street neighborhood has successfully lobbied Montgomery Parks. Their argument, however, can be applied to the overuse of Parkwood Drive and Cedar lane; both single lane streets. The Parkwood and Kensington neighborhoods will have to absorb even more cars if you allow cars to get from Connecticut Ave. to Cedar Lane via Beach Dr. and then force them to turn.</p> <p>Montgomery Parks needs to halt any further planning and send a letter to every residence in the areas affected by this imposition. It was just by chance we heard about the plan. You seem to be trying to sneak in an unfair change without alerting all affected citizens. Better yet, admit that closing Beach Drive on Fridays is unfair to drivers and the Parkwood community and keep Beach Drive open on Fridays. There are paths! We frequently use the paths, even on weekends. If the county needs more places for people to "skate," please follow your mission and create parks.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
492	Living in DC, I love the open parkway and support making it permanent for bicyclists and pedestrians. I frequently ride through the area on weekends.
493	I would like Beach Drive to be closed to cars on weekends, including Fridays and am glad that this is going to be permanent!
494	Sounds like a great idea!
495	I appreciate you closing beach drive closed Friday to Sunday. I think as a compromise we could start it at 6pm on Saturday but I know mcparks has other factors to consider.
496	Please keep in place the current closure from Knowles to Connecticut on weekends. This is a park which should be used for recreation, not for impatient drivers who want to avoid traffic.
497	As a local resident who lives just off Beach Drive, my family and I appreciate having the entire section from Knowles to Connecticut closed Sat/Sunday. If it is determined that making it shorter helps reduce cut-throughs between Cedar and Connecticut that would be disappointing, but not a major issue. Keeping Beach Drive open on Friday seems to be a good balance so it can be used for commuters and local driving. Thanks
498	I love the open parkway on Beach drive. Plenty of room to ride bikes, run, walk. I am fully supportive of the Open Parkway and the extended hours.
499	I'm local to the area and STRONGLY in favor of keeping it closed on the weekends. Provides great access for families and kids learning to ride bikes. Is a must-keep.
500	I'm more flexible on Friday closure and on the part between Cedar and Connecticut.
501	Whatever makes Knowles to Cedar weekend closure permanent is what I support!
502	Thanks for helping maximize opportunities for biking and walking by keeping the parkway permanently open for biking and walking on weekends. The Friday 9am start time is also wonderful!
503	I am supportive of the proposed hours and keeping cars off Beach Drive from Friday at 9 am until Sunday at 4/6pm
504	I believe the current restrictions are best and do not need to change.
505	I bike that stretch often and would welcome the new expanded route and time frame. Thanks!
506	I wholeheartedly support the open parkway on Beach Drive - please keep it open permanently!
507	Thanks for making Beach Drive more useful and safe for bikes!
508	<p>I support the proposed approach of restoring the original operating hours from Friday at 9AM through Sunday at 4PM (6PM Daylight Savings). I would encourage Montgomery Parks to also explicitly state that the road will also be closed on Monday Federal Holidays as this is another time where there is demand for the use of open public space for recreation. I support this policy because it provides a safe space for people to both interact with nature and to get physical activity. Providing safe access for physical activity can help to address the health crisis in our community to help with obesity, heart disease, and mental health.</p> <p>I am a driver and cyclist and former longtime Montgomery County resident. I applaud extending the weekend closure and only wish it had been in place as I was raising my children there. I support all efforts to treat roads as public space belonging to ALL citizens and residents and consider how car-centric policies (like below-market parking rates) tend to subsidize car owners at the expense of other taxpayers.</p> <p>Having Beach Drive closed to motor vehicles helps keep greater Rock Creek Park a park. To be honest: I wish it were closed to motor vehicles 24/7/365, to give people a safe, quiet place to recreate. The closed stretch of road provides ample space for active recreation, something that is increasingly lacking - especially for children. As a person who rides a bicycle every day for transportation, fitness, and recreation (sometimes all three simultaneously), Beach Drive is a frequent venue for me - and it's far more peaceful on the weekend, both for me and my friends who are more reluctant to ride in roads and for whom the multi-use recreational path is often difficult to navigate with pedestrians having absolute right-of-way. Having the road as available space for cycling and scooting is wonderful. Keep the closure intact: it's the right thing to do!</p> <p>While I'm glad to see that the Knowles Ave - Cedar Lane section will remain closed to traffic at weekends, I am disappointed that the current plan appears to reopen the Cedar Lane -&gt; Connecticut Ave section. I would urge the county to reconsider and to keep this section closed as well. The closed Parkway is a huge asset in the area and engenders a really healthy, out-doorsy, and laid-back vibe at the weekend. I walk / ride there weekly with my kids, who have grown up with this amenity. I am strongly in favor of extending, and not curtailing this valuable resource in our area. There are plenty of other roads.</p> <p>This is a great resource for families on weekends! Please keep it open for us!</p> <p>I support it. I'm retired and an almost daily cyclist. Riding anywhere off trails is increasingly risky. Opening Beach Drive for a longer time would be a welcome move. I wish it could remain 2.9 miles, though I understand driver frustration. I would also support improving the trails from Candy Cane up to Lake Needwood.</p>
509	Surface tree roots break up the asphalt and drive cyclists to ride on the roads. In the meantime, open up Beach Drive as proposed.
510	Prefer the closure remain all the way to Connecticut and ideally all the way to Jones Mill. Beach Drive is already very crowded for bicyclists on nice days.
511	this is a great idea, especially the Friday closing. I use this and the no-cars section of sligo creek often - having the road to myself and other bicyclists/pedestrians is wonderful
512	Closing Beach Drive on weekends is the bare minimum; there is no good reason for it to be open to car traffic at all.
513	Strongly support closing the Knowles to Cedar stretch of Beach Drive to traffic on weekends; in favor of keeping the Connecticut to Cedar portion closed as well.
514	Recreation is important to mental and physical health - cars intervene
515	I am in agreement with closing beach(Knowles to Connecticut) from Friday to Sunday. However I think it would be more beneficial to have beach closed from Knowles to Connecticut on Saturdays and Sundays

517	I commute to the NIH by car from Wheaton. However, I also ride my bike regularly in the area, including on Beach Drive. I fully support increasing the amount of time that Beach Drive is closed to motor traffic. Beach Drive should be open to pedestrians and bicycles only. If the current plan is to extend the time to Friday at 9:00 AM to Sunday late afternoon, then I am in favor of it.
518	Keep it closed for pedestrians and cyclists as much as possible.
519	I would like to see Beach closed on the weekends from Cedar to Knowles. I have friends who live on Culver and the stretch between Connecticut and Cedar does not make sense from a traffic perspective on Fridays. I personally do not think the area needs to be closed on Fridays as very few people use it.
520	I totally support having Beach Drive closed Friday thru Sunday. However, I believe community political pressure will change that as politicians feel they have to respond to what some claim to be not only convenience issues begetting into and out of neighborhoods but also some safety issue with increased traffic on specific neighborhood roads. Those issues could be resolved with some traffic monitoring practices but there is no evidence that MC Police will do anything about everyone in a hurry driving community streets carelessly and fast or Park Police doing anything about high speeds on Beach Drive, not to mention Beach Drive being an alternative to 495. Today a 9 car carrier truck was zooming down Beach near Willwood and Beach. I have lived here for 40 years and have walked, run or biked Beach Drive paths all those years. I have met people in fun runs and from so many different neighborhoods. And from so many different countries. Beach Drive Recreation use is a treasure.... But most people think in terms of personal issues. Two neighborhood groups have actually staged traffic jams on a weekend to complain to news and social media for change. Even our wonderful political representatives will cave to pressure. Personally, speed bumps and speed cameras would collect some tax revenue and solve many of the safety issue mentioned ...but that too will create political hysteria.
521	I am a resident of Byeforde Rock Creek Hills. Like many neighbors, my wife and I walk in the neighborhood. The closure of Beach Drive between Connecticut Avenue and Cedar Lane has made walking on Culver Street in our neighborhood difficult, bordering on dangerous, when that segment of Beach Drive is closed. There are no sidewalks on Culver Street and also a number of vehicles parked on both sides of the street. Walking around parked cars and having multiple vehicles going in both directions presents real issues for walkers, as well as runners and those with baby strollers. Even if we choose to go to Rock Creek Park to walk, we need to cross Culver Street and walk on it for at least a couple hundred feet to get to the park. These real safety concerns are heightened by those, like my wife and I, who are older.  Closing Beach Drive during the pandemic so people and families could walk, run, or bicycle gave many an outlet for exercise that was welcome and had little downside. With the return of employees to the workplace, especially Walter Reed Hospital and NIH, both of which have employees coming to work seven days a week, there has been an exponential increase in traffic. That considerable increase in traffic has presented the current safety concerns.  Reopening that small segment of the park will make walking in our neighborhood safer. Moreover, the hiker/biker path in that segment will still allow residents and bicyclists the opportunity to use Rock Creek park for exercise and enjoyment. Many bikers use the roadway on Beach Drive, even when the road is open to vehicular traffic. That type of use can continue with the segment open, similar to the use of Beach Drive east of Connecticut Avenue.  Many residents have expressed support for a new or expanded bike lane on that segment of Beach Drive. Reopening the roadway to vehicles in order to make the neighborhood safer need not impact use of that segment for bicyclists.  We join with the other residents of our neighborhood and with the BRCH Home Owners Association in supporting the reopening of the segment of Beach Drive between Connecticut Avenue and Cedar Lane.  Thank you for considering my comments.
521	Nick Inzeo
522	Having this closed to pedestrians and cyclists has been an amazing gift to the community. I'm so glad this has the county's support!
523	I fully support and wish it was extended to Connecticut ave
524	I live near the Sligo Creek Parkway where it has been closed for a number of years, Friday thru Sunday with additional days when holidays fall near those days. It is a great asset to our neighborhood and to others that choose to come to our neighborhood, park & then bike, walk on this safe space. It is also ideal for young bikers to come without concerns for moving vehicles. I hope this works for this area of Beach Drive for the neighborhood and those who choose to come to take advantage of this safe space.
525	Every single road is made for cars. Having this safe space for walkers, bikers, etc is essential to active, healthy living both physically and mentally. Please keep the open parkway car free!!
526	I think the proposal is excellent. I believe it should be 9 am Friday until 7am Monday. This will give families a chance to experience safe roadways and enjoy themselves without the threat of motor vehicles.
527	Dear Representatives and Planners, I am fully supporting your work to open Beach Drive permanently to pedestrians, kids, families and cyclists. The area is a treasure to all residents and the crowds coming for safe recreation away from the constant threat of vehicular traffic. Many thanks, Ozerk Aslan
528	I strongly support closing Beach Drive to automobiles on weekends.
529	I am a huge supporter of the Beach Drive Open program. Parks are for people and parks should be maximized for people to use. With many families working from home, drive should be closed to vehicular traffic 7 days a week. MoCo is fortunate to encompass a national park and prioritizing the use of parks by people should be the fundamental to MoCo Parks mission.
530	Keep Beach Drive closed on weekends to Connecticut Ave.
531	The Open parkway use is an invaluable asset to everyone in our county. Giving people a safe place to walk and ride is so important! Please keep as much Open Parkway as possible.
532	I would prefer to maintain the longer distance of the closure and even extend it as much as possible. As a cyclist I go through this route regularly and go beyond these start/end points every time I ride. The on/off sections with car traffic are annoying. In addition, I would like to see some minimal street sweeping on closed sections since tree branches and other debris accumulate, particularly after storms.
533	I am fully in favor of this proposal.
534	The more closure the better, as far as I'm concerned. Making Friday a bike day sounds great!
535	We fully support permanently re-opening the section of Beach Drive that runs between Cedar and Connecticut. The weekend closure of this section has caused dangerous cut-through traffic in our neighborhood (Culver Street). We have two small children at home and are constantly fearful of the weekend traffic, to the extent that we do not allow them to set foot in the front yard.
536	Thank you for closing the section of Beach Drive from Friday to Sunday. Runners, skaters and bicyclists like my wife and I will enjoy the safety and the nature views of this part of Beach Drive.
537	Great plan. I bike along Beach Drive through Rock Creek frequently. It is one of the gems of the DC area.
538	As a frequent user of Beach Drive as a cyclist I have enjoyed the added safety of the weekend closures. I am therefore supportive of the proposed changes including going back to the original Friday thru Sunday closure schedule and making this closure and operating hours permanent.
539	As always, thank you for your stewardship of this great resource and for considering the recreational needs and safety of the many cyclist and pedestrian users. Lots of people including me bike on the Rock Creek Trails especially from Friday through Sunday. Almost everyone I know works at home on Friday or makes Friday their alternative day off. So, yes this is a great idea. This would help resolve the dangerous situation, which I've experienced first hand, that now occurs on Fridays when there are several people biking on the trail and car traffic is coming in both directions on Beach Drive, often driving over the speed limit and often refusing to yield at cross walks.
540	As a driver, I find this section of Beach Drive invaluable when I am going to NIH from my home and would hate to see it closed at any time. Bike riders have many routes available to them. My son is a bike rider and was a bike messenger in San Francisco. A recreational ride for him was a minimum of 20 miles and often stretched to 50. A 2.9 mile stretch of road is a joke to a serious bike rider and their needs should not be considered here. If this is an attempt to provide children under 10 with a place to ride and the stroller set with a place to run around with no traffic, OK. If not, you are creating a tremendous nuisance for the rest of us.
541	I support Montgomery Parks' recommendation to close Beach Drive to cars from Cedar Avenue to Knowles permanently from Friday to Sunday. This is great news, and while we know that you're going to hear a lot of complaints from drivers, please reserve this space and time for bikes and pedestrians. Cars already "Rule the Roads"; let's preserve some space for these other modes.
542	Please keep the parkway closed to traffic and open for us bikers, walkers, runners, loafers, all of the recreators in MOCO. It's so pleasant to have a space with elbow room like this that let's us participate in the suburban landscape in a relaxed fashion. Beach Drive is a sanity sanctuary in our traffic saturated county.
543	I strong support closing Beach Drive to cars from Cedar Avenue to Knowles permanently from Friday to Sunday. Maintaining car free spaces is good for people who live in Montgomery county and good for the air of our region. Cars have many options.
544	Please do not shorten the times or length the section that is closed, instead lengthen the times. This is vital resource for all levels of bike riders -- beginners just learning to ride and experienced riders -- everyone benefits. The more people who ride bikes the fewer cars on the road. The more people who ride bikes the healthier they will be and that saves health care costs.
545	I am excited to hear that the Open Parkway of Beach Drive may start up again on Fridays. I am a bike commuter and though I love biking and walking on the Open Parkway on the weekends, it is most beneficial to me as a commuter from my home in Kensington to my office in Friendship Heights, DC to have it available on Fridays. Closing this section of the parkway to car traffic during the week promotes more bike commuting, which is great for safety, public health, wildlife and the environment.
546	Having this car free space for recreation and exercise is a huge asset to MoCo.
547	I think the Open Parkway should be kept as is, and we should instead be considering EXPANDING the number of hours the road is closed to private automobile traffic and EXPANDING the number of miles of trail that are closed to cars.

	<p>BEACH DRIVE BETWEEN CEDAR LANE AND KNOWLES AVE SHOULD BE OPEN TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC AT ALL TIMES - BY KEEPING IT CLOSED YOU ARE PUSHING TRAFFIC INTO THE PARKWOOD COMMUNITY.</p> <p>Your elimination of the closure between Connecticut Av and Cedar Lane contradicts your adding the Friday closure between Cedar Lane and Knowles Ave. Your reason for eliminating the one closure is to reduce the traffic through a residential neighborhood yet that's exactly what you are doing to the Parkwood Community which parallels Beach Drive between Cedar and Knowles. Why is OK to push traffic into our residential streets, making them less safe? In this part of Montgomery County, residents have easy access to walking and biking paths. Serious, aggressive bikers should be made to ride safely in the street with vehicles.</p> <p>Also, closing Beach Drive to vehicles doesn't make it a safe place for pedestrians and recreational bikers. While walking through the gate opening on Beach Drive at Cedar Lane a few weeks ago, I was hit by a speeding biker trying to pass me. I severely sprained my ankle and broke a bone in my foot from that collision.</p>
548	There are never any police around to enforce traffic rules on bikers.
549	I support any and all efforts to expand access to safe walking, biking, skating, whatever. I would only hope that the speed of e-bikes would be limited. 20 Mph seems reasonable, since a human powered bike can go the fast (not with this human, maybe)
550	I support this
551	Please keep as much of Beach Drive as possible closed to traffic from Friday morning to Sunday evening. Fewer cars means better air quality, less noise pollution, and safer streets for pedestrians, families, cyclists, and nearby residents. It is also beneficial for the local flora and fauna of Rock Creek Park. Plants and animals alike are killed or dying from vehicular related pollution, speed, and noise. We need to protect them, as our survival depends much more on preserving nature than it does on getting places quickly and conveniently.
552	I frequently ride or walk on Beach Drive and -- please keep in closed to traffic on the weekends.
553	I would agree to leaving the parkway open to traffic on Fridays and closing to traffic on Saturdays and Sundays.
554	Please lock Beach for the weekend. It bring people out and makes a community.
555	Great decision! I support 100%. I would prefer that the full 2.9miles remains closed, but understand the rationale for eliminating the 0.7miles. Thank you for making it permanent!
556	I support restoring the Friday hours to the Open Parkway. Fridays are an important time for recreation for many people and when Fridays were included before I saw many families and children enjoying the road closure both on foot and by bike. Additionally, now that many people are working from home either full time or part time, there is much less traffic on Fridays and there is much more value in recreational opportunities during that time than in using it for car traffic. However, I do not support shortening the Open Parkway. The section between Connecticut Avenue and Cedar Lane is one of the most beautiful and pleasant spots in the region and I have seen many people riding or walking there on the weekends. While there is an adjacent bike path, it is narrow and bumpy and more difficult to use, and I know I'm not alone in preferring to ride in the road without the danger of cars
557	Thank you.
558	Please keep the bikeway permanently open for active users, including runners and cyclists.
559	I often bike on Beech Drive between Jones Mill and Cedar Lane, and sometimes go as far as Knowles. I appreciate the county closing this road on weekends, and the proposal to make this permanent, but I would prefer that the entire length be closed.
560	Anything that can be done to have a safe place for cyclists and runners, helps eliminate tragic accidents.
561	Mentally, I survived the COVID pandemic due to opportunities to reconnect with the outdoors. Friends died. It was a difficult time. Many people in my community were introduced to how important fresh air, exercise, and access to green spaces are to their mental and physical health. Now that most things have returned to normal, please help us continue to move forward in physical and mental health by keeping as much of the parkway open to bikers, skaters, and pedestrians for as many hours as possible. Automobile drivers have multiple roads available to them, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Pedestrians have significantly fewer choices and significantly fewer hours. We are only asking for a 2.9 mile stretch of one road to remain open to skaters, bikers, and pedestrians on weekends. Please show that you care about our mental and physical health by keeping the parkway open throughout the weekend. Thank you.
562	I support further closures to Beach Drive - it runs through a park and folks utilizing this road ought to feel like they are in a park and the best way to experience that is without a car.
563	I fully support keeping beach drive open to only pedestrians and bikes! Using the park as a pedestrian and bicyclist is amazing! And something that was impossible to imagine growing up in DC in the 2000s, before the advent of bike lanes and bike share. I love getting around and exercising this way, and my quality of life living in our region has been made better by OPENING Beach Drive. Thank you.
564	Great program for pedestrian and cyclist safety, sustainability, public health and community cohesion! Please keep it open to people (closed to motorized traffic)
565	Please limit the use of parks on weekends to non-vehicular use to the greatest extent possible. Keeping Beach Drive closed to vehicles creates an extraordinarily useful, pleasant, SAFE and healthy recreational opportunity.
566	My wife and I recently discovered the open sections of Beach Drive. We love it. We've returned several times with our bikes to ride Beach Dr and eat lunch and gelato after riding to Bethesda near the CCT. We wouldn't visit if it were not for open Beach Dr.
567	While I would prefer the parkway remains open to cyclists etc. all the way to Connecticut, I'll support the reduced distance but going with Friday through Sunday hours. Thank you!
568	My name is Margaret Culotta-Norton. I live at 4121 Dannel Lane, Kensington, Maryland and so my home and neighborhood is directly affected by the Beach Drive closure on weekends. I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood. The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes. There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind. Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased. The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.
569	Sincerely, Margaret Culotta-Norton 4121 Dannel Lane Kensington, MD 20895 mmtooth@aol.com
570	My name is Robert E Norton. I live at 4121 Dannel Lane, Kensington, Maryland and so my home and neighborhood is directly affected by the Beach Drive closure on weekends. I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood. The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes. There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind. Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased. The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.
571	Sincerely, Robert E Norton 4121 Dannel Lane Kensington, MD 20895 cocquan@aol.com

569	This modification of the Beach Drive Open Parkway plan should be made as proposed. The closure of the stretch of Beach Drive from Connecticut Avenue to Cedar Lane has clearly encouraged drivers to use Culver Drive in the Byeforde subdivision as a cut-through route to get to Cedar Lane/Connecticut Avenue, notably increasing traffic and endangering the residents of Culver Drive in a manner that did not exist before when the Connecticut Avenue to Cedar Lane section of Beach Drive was open. Culver Drive and adjacent Byeforde subdivision streets were never engineered to take such an increase in traffic. Restoring the short 0.7 mile section of Beach Drive from Connecticut Avenue to Cedar Lane to regular use will substantially decrease the use of Culver Drive as a cut through while still preserving over 2 miles of Beach Drive for weekend bikers and walkers. This is a totally fair action that will serve the important safety interests of the residents of Culver Drive and the Byeforde subdivision, while still providing a substantial area of Beach Drive for weekend recreationists.
570	While I am delighted that this proposal will relieve the increased traffic and danger to residents in the Byeforde neighborhood, I'm not sure that shifting the pain to Parkwood is a desirable tradeoff. How about closing the Cedar Lane-Conn Ave segment, and leaving the Cedar Lane-Knowles segment as is, closed on Sat-Sun, & holidays. I have not seen data that suggests a road closure on Friday is needed to offer more recreation opportunity than the park walkway during the week/Friday. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.
571	I wholeheartedly support this proposal, and am very grateful for the detailed analytics, research and consideration that has gone into it. I live on Culver Street and have been directly impacted by the traffic overflow that happens when Beach Drive is closed between Connecticut and Cedar. It feels dangerous, and unsafe for pedestrians OR drivers when Culver becomes a substitute for Beach.  My children have been frightened by the speed and volume of traffic when walking home from the bus. One of our cars was hit when parked in front of our house while Culver was taking overflow. And we constantly feel like we are dodging an obstacle course among parked cars, pedestrians, bikers and traffic on Culver Street. Without sidewalks or a different width and designation, Culver becomes deeply unsafe for everyone.  I think this proposal is based on sound, unbiased research and reflects a solution that ensures walkable space AND community safety. I very much hope it will pass.
572	Thank you for your consideration.  Upper Beach Drive is a local treasure, and the decision to restrict it to human-powered use on the weekends has been a credit to our enlightened leadership and planning vision. It is part of what makes our community so attractive, providing a family-friendly place where our citizens can access a "natural" oasis in the midst of an otherwise densely populated community. It supports healthful leisure and an expanded appreciation for the natural beauty of the Rock Creek watershed. A car-free Beach Drive nurtures respect for our environment and gives us a place to improve both physical and mental health through interaction with plants and animals without the anxiety and pollution of automobile traffic.  I strongly encourage Montgomery Parks and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to expand the scope of the Open Parkway as much as possible, both in size and duration. More and better access to this invaluable resource will stand as a testament to our community's quality of life, and provide a model for other communities to emulate.  Thank you for your efforts to prioritize human beings over automobiles.  Sincerely, Scott Weinfeld 4528 Chestnut Street Bethesda, Maryland
573	To: ☐ Montgomery Parks From: James and Marina Walsh Date: May 24, 2024 Re: ☐ Modification to Beach Drive Open Parkways  I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.  I moved to Washington, DC from New York City in 1998. In the residential areas of New York like the more suburban neighborhoods in Queens where I grew up, traffic safety challenges were abundant. It was widely understood that to have a traffic light installed at a particular intersection, the City Department of Transportation (DOT) would have to record at least five (5) traffic or pedestrian fatalities at said intersection. Weather this was actual City DOT policy or urban myth is unclear. But it certainly seemed that fatalities were triggers for City DOT action. A number of years ago, a resident from Saul Road was run over by a truck at the corner of Connecticut and Saul. It was widely reported that this near fatality led to the traffic signal upgrade at that corner.  In any event, the conditions created by the current Open Parkways Program are unsafe: this is a life safety issue on Culver Street. I have dodged speeding "cut through" vehicles, signaled drivers to slow down and observed vehicle volumes that have generated traffic congestion! I have to believe that the County and Montgomery Parks are committed to Vision Zero – the elimination of traffic fatalities/injuries and enhanced roadway and pedestrian safety. We the residents of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands remain at risk. The proposed change to the Open Parkways mitigates the risk and restores safety. By the way, bikers have a choice. They can do what they do: that is, ride in packs in the middle of Beach Drive retarding vehicular traffic and putting themselves at risk. Or bikers can use the path adjacent to Beach Drive to transit between the Cedar to Connecticut segment.  I do urge the Planning Committee to demonstrate its commitment to Vision Zero and approve the modification to the Open Parkways Program. If not, well, I guess it may take a fatality to restore safety to Culver Street. Let's hope not.  Respectfully,  James and Marina Walsh 9807 Culver Street/james.walshaa@yahoo.com
574	I support this change.
575	Please do not allow cars on Beach Drive. It is the best part about where I live and why I tell others to live near rock creek! If traffic is the concern, you should incentivize public transit instead, reducing Beach Drive will only make quality of life worse for the people of the area and all just to make a few car owners happy.
576	I bike the 2.2 mile segment most weekends and appreciate that the road does not have car traffic, making biking a safer option. I would welcome a car-free experience for as many hours as feasible.
577	I support the proposal to restore the original operating hours of the Beach Drive Open Parkway from Friday at 9:00 AM until Sunday at 4:00 PM Standard Time / 6:00 PM Daylight Savings Time. Extending these hours provides a valuable increase in traffic-free time, benefiting the community by allowing more opportunities for recreational activities and peaceful enjoyment of the area. However, I strongly oppose reducing the extent of the parkway from 2.9 miles to 2.2 miles. The current length from Knowles Ave to Connecticut Ave is crucial in accommodating the high usage of the parkway, ensuring that all visitors can enjoy this beautiful space without the area feeling overcrowded. I urge Montgomery Parks to maintain the full 2.9-mile stretch to preserve the quality and accessibility of the Beach Drive Open Parkway experience.
578	I fully support the proposal to close Beach Drive to cars from Cedar Avenue to Knowles permanently from Friday to Sunday. It would be even better if the closure continued to start at 7am instead of 9am.
579	I believe Beach Dr was built by taxpayers for cars and bikes and the Parks should upgrade the bike trail and return the road to its original purpose.
580	I love biking along Beach Drive! The less car access, the better. When the cars aren't there, the drive fills up with beautiful waves of people walking, biking, skating, even pushing walkers and wheelchairs; young people, old people, fat, skinny, every shade of color, dressed up, dressed down...it is such a joyful stretch of life throbbing to and fro, and not bothered by car fumes. Please preserve this rare stretch!
581	Because the extra cut through traffic on Culver street is a risk to the safety of pedestrians, my husband and I support the reopening of Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave.
582	Please keep Beach Drive car free for as long (distance and time wise) so that bikers, runners, walkers can enjoy it as much as possible. One of fav rides is going from DC to Lake Needwood via Beach Drive. It would be much safer if it was car free. Thanks!
583	Please keep the road car-free and safe for as much distance and time as possible! it makes a huge difference :)
584	Please do not reduce open parkway access or duration. The open parkway program is the only good thing that came from the pandemic and it contributes greatly to the quality of life in our area.
585	Thank you for closing part of Beach Dr to cars for the weekend
586	I, and I think many other cyclists, use the section between Cedar and Connecticut because it is the safest route to Jones Mill and the Rock Creek section of Beach Drive. Opening that section to cars would increase risks to safety and driver frustration. In particular, the roads will remain heavily used by cyclists during weekend hours. And cyclists who move to the paths will present a risk to pedestrians and families who crowd the relatively narrow paths on weekends.
587	Thank you for consideration
588	Keep Beach Dr closed to cars on the weekends! This is a safe haven for cyclists and families to be able to spend time in nature without fear of being struck by a car, a fear we are all too familiar with in the DC area.
589	I strongly agree! There are numerous cyclists on Beach Dr between Knowles and Cedar on weekdays and especially on Fridays, which many people have off, either entirely or in part. The proposal would greatly benefit these folks and would attract walkers and runners as well.

589	I support the increasing of pedestrianized time and want the greatest stretch of road to be pedestrianized over the weekends. There exist other routes for motorists (especially on the weekends!) and we need more pedestrianized space in montgomery county for all the other people who aren't always in their cars!
590	I have lived on Culver Street backing to Beach Drive for nearly 30 years. I am strongly IN FAVOR of the proposed recommendation to permanently re-open Beach Drive between Connecticut and Cedar. The closing of that portion of Beach Drive has resulted in hazardous conditions on Culver Street. There are no sidewalks on Culver, so residents walk in the street. When Beach Drive is closed, it is simply not safe. It's not safe for residents to walk their dogs, for children to ride their bikes or walk with friends down the street, or for neighbors to go out for a walk. It is only a matter of time before a child, dog, or adult gets hit by one of the hundreds of cars that use Culver on the weekends and holidays. Culver is a neighborhood residential street, not a primary connector road like Beach Drive, which also has a dedicated and separate paved bicycle trail for walkers, runners, and riders. Re-open Beach Drive permanently and return Culver Street to a safe, pedestrian-friendly street.
591	I used to live in Friendship heights, and the weekly closure of Beach Drive was one of my favorite parts of being in the area. I love being able to bike along the course of the road on my way to Lake Needwood. Please continue to keep this section of road closed as part of the Open Parkways initiative. I am also strongly support keeping the section between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue closed to traffic. Thru traffic using Cedar Lane to reach Rockville Pike can use Jones Bridge Road or I-495 instead, and should be redirected accordingly.
592	That section of Beach Drive is an essential route for cyclists in southern Montgomery County who need to get almost anywhere within the region. Especially on weekends, heavy pedestrian use makes the side path completely inappropriate for cyclists, leaving the roadway as the only option. I would strongly encourage the County to further expand the mileage, hours, and days for keeping Beach Dr available to cyclists and other active transportation users, without the danger of mixing with car and other motor vehicles.
593	I favor keeping as much of Beach Drive off-limits to motor vehicles for as long as possible. Let pedestrians, bicyclists, dogs, etc., have it as a safe, enjoyable place. There's plenty of other places for people to drive.
594	Please keep it closed to cars!! Love, all cyclists!
595	The entire closed section should remain closed!
596	Please keep the open parkway closed section to include Knowles to Connecticut ave. Many families, kids, and fitness enthusiasts use the entire section car-free every weekend.
597	Please keep the full length open to walkers and cyclists without cars
598	Would like it to remain closed to bike safely with my family.
599	Yes, this is a wonderful idea. I love to bike on Beach Rd, but the traffic is not attentive to bikes. Many driver go well over the speed limit of 25 mph. Most cars are speeding through to avoid lights on Rockville Pike!
600	More time without cars on Beach Drive is better. Start earlier and stay off later. Especially in the summer, people bike well before 9 AM and then bike in the cool of the evening. Thanks.
601	Please consider how much business could be gained by extending this in addition to the safety it provides
602	I ride my bicycle on Beach Drive from DC to Garrett Park several times each week. Reinstating the operating hours if this section of Beach Drive that were implemented during the pandemic would greatly benefit 1000s of us who use Beach Drive as a park.  There are a great many drivers who are traveling at speeds much higher than posted on the section between Grosner and Conn. Ave. There is a significant back up of cars turning from Beach Drive to Conn Ave in the afternoon.  Lets close Beach Drive from Conn. Ave to Knowles beginning each Friday morning at 7 am.
603	The new speed bump is not slowing traffic much and is in the wrong place.
604	Thank you for proposing to keep Beach Drive closed to cars over the weekend! I love this safe way to get exercise and connection with nature, from sighting barred owls and warblers in the spring to mushrooms and changing leaves in the fall and the occasional snowy winter excursion. We need more nature in our lives and safe commuting options, and Beach Drive provides both. With the Mayor's recent misguided decision to back off of bike lanes on Connecticut Avenue, this route is even more critical.
605	I support keeping the 2.9 miles, but also support the 2.11 living on the DC side and frequently bike up Beach Dr which is so pleasant in DC without cars.  change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.  Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood. The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.  There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.  Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.
606	As I live in the neighborhood effected by the closure of the Parkway, I have seen increased traffic in the neighborhood when the Parkway is closed. For the safety of pedestrians and children in this area, I agree with the recommendation to keep the section of Parkway between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue open.
607	Please keep status quo with Connecticut to Knowles closed Saturday 0700 to Sunday 1600/1800 only. Keep Friday open to vehicle traffic as this is a core commuter route Friday. Closing this route to traffic Fridays placates to home workers, which is lunatics to those who have to commute Fridays. Home workers are a minority.
608	I support these changes to the Beach Drive Open Parkway Program. It's wonderful to see all the people out walking, running and bike riding on these closed sections of Beach!
609	Thank you!! Please include Friday in the permanent plan.
610	Thank you The current closure should remain unchanged



	<p>I highly support REMOVING the section of Beach Drive from Connecticut to Cedar Lane out of the Open Parkway Plan. This section of Beach Drive has created an un-godly unsafe impact on the parallel street of Culver. It has destroyed the quiet neighborhood with excessive traffic at high speeds. One cannot even walk along Culver Street without taking their life in their own hands. The speeders curse the walkers and attempt to side sweep them. Perhaps Montgomery County could make a few dollars by placing patrol cars along Culver to ticket the cars AND TRUCKS that speed down the street. Additionally the street is now worn down to the sub pavement.</p>
611	Please kindly remove the .6 mile of Beach Drive from your plan. It has been a LONG 3.5 year disruption.
612	I urge Montgomery county to keep all 2.9 miles of Beach drive open to non-motorized traffic and to not allow vehicles on this road on the weekends.
613	Please keep the Open Parkway from Knowles to Connecticut Ave. It is a great, safe way for the community to enjoy Beach Drive on the weekends. I support a car free Beach Drive!
	<p>I love having Beach Drive closed to vehicular traffic on Saturdays and Sundays, when it gets plenty of use and does not interfere with rush hour traffic. I would prefer keep Beach Drive open to cars on Fridays, as it is currently.</p> <p>I opposed shortening the closure.</p>
614	All in all, I disagree with this proposal. As a Parkwood resident, I see the overall benefits to our community (and beyond) as much bigger than the costs to leave Beach closed to vehicular traffic as it is now. I do not think any changes should be made to the current situation.
615	Doing this will encourage more walkers, bikers, less fumes, saving on gas and especially enjoying the view of nature. Thank you to all involved in initiating this practice.
616	I believe that Beach Drive should never be closed to vehicles. However, closing Beach Drive to vehicles from 7 am on Saturday until 4 pm on Sunday saves my neighborhood from the heavy traffic on Fridays. Therefore, if Beach Drive must be closed, please only close it on Saturday and Sunday.
617	<p>As a cyclist having to share the road with often-times distracted drivers it's too scary to ride in a shared road environment. This is also been further heightened with the almost silent EV vehicles. I commuted via the exact tract of the Purple Line for over ten years. Now I live in Chevy Chase instead of Silver Spring but there is no way it's safe enough to ride one mile instead of the past six miles. The Beach Drive Open Parkway Program is an oasis of safety and health for not just cyclists but also roller blades, jogging strollers and even foot pedestrians.</p>
	<p>I am a 47-year resident of Culver Street in Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing to urge the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage has actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common-sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut-through car.</p> <p>Robert Zoon 9709 Culver Street</p>
618	May 27, 2024
	<p>Re: regarding opening Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave.</p> <p>Dear Planning Board:</p> <p>I am a 47 year resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.</p> <p>The safety of Culver Street is of paramount importance to me because it is currently being used as a cut-through to avoid the park closure. I am genuinely concerned about my safety and that of my grandchildren when they visit as numerous cars come through on weekends at high rates of speed. I walk through the neighborhood with my pet every day including weekends and have nearly been hit multiple times because of this work around...people in hurry to get around the closure.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association, of which I am a member, has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially for children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common-sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut-through car.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely Kathryn Zoon Resident 9709 Culver St Kensington MD 20895</p>
619	My husband and I have lived at 9510 Culver St for the past 27 years and one of the main reasons we bought here was for the neighborhood and to have the park behind our house. We raised our children here and never felt unsafe when going for a walk on our street until the pandemic. When Beach Drive started closing on the weekend behind our house, we were surprised. It seemed unnecessary given how nice the walking path already was and how little bike traffic was on Beach Drive on any given day. We were shocked by how fast the car/truck traffic on our curvy, narrow residential street increased. With normal life resuming in the past two years, it has gotten really bad. Every weekend, we have to dodge cars while trying to walk our dog or back out of our driveway. We do not have sidewalks and our driveways are narrow so many cars park on the street. The speed limit is 25 and even that is too fast. Drivers yell and drive aggressive if you ask them to slow down. I have witnessed accidents and near misses of children while cars race down our street. GPS even routes people to our street when the beltway is backed up on the weekend and our street has become a major cut-through for people going from Connecticut Ave to Wisconsin
620	Ave. We are very concerned the problem will not be rectified until someone dies from being hit on Culver St. Please re-open Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave permanently on weekends and holidays.

	<p>I do not think they should make this adjustment to the length of closure of Beach Drive. I believe they should can you continue to keep the 2.9 mile closure from Connecticut Avenue to Knowles Avenue on the weekends.</p> <p>I disagree with the premise that the highest use area excludes the location from Connecticut Avenue to Beach Drive. Leaving that part out of the closure will funnel traffic into the Parkwood neighborhood to a higher degree than the current closure schedule. This adjustment to the current schedule, only benefits a wealthy enclave of Chevy Chase View.</p> <p>I am neutral as to whether to close it on Fridays or not. I can see where it would be a difficult for people commuting on a workday And access to a road leading to Walter Johnson HS. I can also see the view that it's wonderful to have a more quiet access on Fridays.</p>
621	
622	<p>Keep it open Friday night through Sunday night for the full 2.9. Do not modify.</p>
623	<p>The Beforde Rock Creek Hills neighborhood has been requesting Parks to open Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Ave for three years to eliminate cut-through traffic on Culver Street, and has provided a traffic study to support their case. This seems to me a reasonable decision, since the remaining section of Beach Drive between Knowles Ave and Cedar Lane will remain closed to traffic on weekends to provide space for recreation.</p> <p>However, the decision to revert back to Covid times and close that section to traffic on Fridays with the nebulous aim of preserving "Open Parkway" is a very bad one. By proposing this, Parks will push the traffic problem encountered in one neighborhood into adjoining ones, namely Parkwood and Kensington Estates. Parkwood Rd in these neighborhoods runs parallel to Beach Drive between Knowles Ave and Cedar Lane, and would become the alternate route. Beach Drive has not been closed since December 2022, and there is no reason to close it now.</p> <p>I live in Parkwood. I didn't know this proposal had been made until hearing about it from a fellow resident in early May. The Parkwood Residents Association organized a Zoom meeting on May 21st, and members voted unanimously against reinstating the Friday road closure. A more inclusive listserve survey of opinions of the approximately 340 members is ongoing, and will be presented to Parks.</p> <p>The weekend closure of Beach Drive is appreciated, but adding Friday is not desired. The aim to somehow equalize the available distance for recreation (Open Parkway) on Beach Drove and Sligo Creek Parkway has no basis in my opinion. The surrounding neighborhoods are different, and the consequences of forcing cut-through traffic on to narrow streets in them are also different.</p>
624	<p>Thank you for your consideration of my comments.</p>
625	<p>Closing Beach Drive again on Fridays between Cedar and Knowles is a terrible idea. It disrupts the traffic flow and residents of 2 neighborhoods- Parkwood and Kensington Estates. As a Parkwood resident walking the trails daily, I picked this neighborhood due to the location to the park. When Beach Dr is closed, a quick trip from Franklin St to Grosvenor Lane takes a minute or so. With Beach closed, it takes much longer as I go either Cedar Lane or Knowles/Strathmore to access Rockville Pike. I strongly support opening the section of Beach Dr from Franklin St to Grosvenor Lane at all times. I even noticed that there are already road closing rails in existence. Thanks for your ears.</p>
626	<p>Parkwood drive and the Parkwood community has cut-through traffic now, with Beach drive closed on the weekends. Closing Beach Dr on Friday will make more cut-through traffic, in a school zone (Parkwood Elementary). Closing Beach will also force more cars along Cedar and Knowles on Friday where that are 3 private schools and 1 public school.</p> <p>By closing on Friday, the goal to eliminate cut-through traffic and preserve open parkway is opposite of this proposal. There will be more cut-through traffic. The "preserve" is turned into expanded. The goal is not met. Therefore, just from this view, the proposal should not be accepted. You do not achieve the goal</p> <p>Parkwood Drive has experienced more traffic, more parking from people outside of the neighborhood, and more trash on the street since Beach was closed.</p> <p>With Beach dr open, I can get onto Beach and off of neighborhood streets when leaving. However now I am forced to drive through the neighborhood, cut through streets I did not take for the 18 years I lived here before COVID-19, and increase traffic. Beach drive closure on the weekends inconveniences the neighborhood.</p> <p>I think Beach Dr should be open at all times. But it certainly should not be extended to Fridays. Where would the people coming off of 495 to enter the neighborhood go? They need to cut through other streets. You are pushing traffic from one place to another. Your goal is not met.</p> <p>How many people use the street to recreate on Friday? People are in school, camp, working. Why Friday? Where is any data that says Friday is a useful day and will meet your goal?</p>
625	<p>What does Montgomery Parks plan to do for the people of the Parkwood neighborhood that are currently inconvenienced, dealing with cut-through traffic, less parking, more trash, and longer to get out of the neighborhood? If you are going to inconvenience us even more, what are your plans to help us?</p>
626	<p>I love the open parkway and support making it permanent. I like riding on it Friday-Sunday.</p>
627	<p>Do not open this to cars.</p>
628	<p>I am in favor of this. I ride the permanent open beach dr in DC 3-4 times a week and would enjoy being able to extend these car free rides during the week</p>
629	<p>I would want the parkway to remain closed to motor vehicles for the full length of road that is in current operation. If cut-thru traffic is a concern, I recommend adding traffic calming devices to the neighborhood, like speed bumps. Adding Fridas back allows me to have a safe ride into the weekend activities.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
630	<p>For my cycling, I'd much prefer to keep the full 2.9 miles. But whether or not you're able to keep that, do keep the closure schedule please.</p>
631	<p>Please provide as much open space for people for as long as we can.</p>
632	<p>The BRCHCA supports the Montgomery County Department of Parks proposal to reopen Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. permanently on weekends and holidays. When Beach Drive is closed to automobile traffic, there are immediate and drastic negative impacts on our neighborhood - specifically on Culver Street which runs parallel to Beach Drive. There are NO SIDEWALKS in this neighborhood to protect pedestrians. When commuters rush through this neighborhood, it poses a serious risk to families - especially to children and elderly. There's no reason that Beach Drive should ever close to automobile traffic because the county spent millions of dollars on paved bike paths which run along Beach Drive. It makes absolutely no sense to have this one small portion of Beach Drive closed off when the rest of it is open. There's no benefit to the joggers and bikers but there's a major negative to those that live in this neighborhood with no sidewalks to buffer us from speeding cars. Please make the common sense decision to keep Beach Drive open like it was before Covid. Thank you for your consideration .</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Amanda Loveland</p>
633	<p>Please do not reopen the .7 miles between cedar and Connecticut. I'm a very frequent cyclist in the area and drivers DO NOT respect cyclists. Having the 2.9 miles with no cars is an amazing and SAFE amenity for cyclists, pedestrians, families, kids, and dog walkers</p>
634	<p>I support keeping beach drive parkway closed to cars a greater % of the time. It is a lovely place to walk and the foot/bike traffic is heavy. I would prefer the full 2.9 miles remain closed to cars.</p>
635	<p>This sounds like a fantastic idea. It makes perfect sense to do this outside of the Monday-Thursday stretch. I'm looking forward to taking my son on scooter rides without fear of him getting run over by cars! I'd love to see this implemented by the time that school gets out.</p>
636	<p>The closure should not be reduced but should include the section from Cedar to Connecticut Ave. I ride that section frequently and appreciate that it is car free.</p>
637	<p>I do not agree with the modifications. Beach Drive Open Parkway is used by many children, walkers, runners and cyclists year round, and the proposal to shorten the stretch that is closed on the weekends would be disappointing. There are more than enough roads for cars to use throughout the county; however, there are not enough safe roads for children, walkers, runners, and cyclists to use throughout the county. The Beach Drive Open Parkway promotes a safe recreation environment for all to use - I would advocate to keep the current stretch of road closed on the weekends (Saturday and Sunday).</p>
638	<p>I love the open parkway (and the absence of cars) during the weekends. I have walked, run and cycled with my wife and two boys here during these periods and really enjoy the separation from traffic. The sense of safety and community is very special and valuable. I have used the path and trail-road crossings at other times, but cars are usually speeding along Beach Drive and do not slow down or stop at the crossings! Please, please, please, preserve this safe and valuable resource for the community.</p>

	<p>PART 1</p> <p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands and live on Culver Street. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Over the last four years, our neighborhood has expressed significant concerns with the closure of this particular segment. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•This segment is adjacent to the Capital Beltway and serves as a primary commuter route between 495 and NIH, Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval (and Rockville and Bethesda).</li> <li>•It also serves as a jump off point from the Beltway whenever there is traffic and congestion. Whenever there is traffic stacking, GPS apps such as Waze and GoogleMaps send drivers off of the beltway and onto Culver Street as a by-pass to the traffic.</li> <li>•Culver Street is a residential neighborhood street in Kensington, parallels the 0.70 mile stretch of Beach Dr. between Connecticut Ave. and Cedar Lane.</li> <li>•Culver Street has no sidewalks or traffic calming measures in place.</li> <li>•The street is narrow with many blind spots and cars parked along both sides of the road. It is treacherous on any day.</li> <li>•There are many families with young children as well as residents with special needs who live on this road.</li> <li>•Unlike Culver Street, Beach Dr. has a pedestrian footpath (has since 1976).</li> </ul> <p>Our neighborhood association has also advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive from the Open Parkways program represents a long overdue and reasonable compromise. It is practical, supported by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and will help to ensure the safety of our neighborhood. The unintended consequence of the closure of this 0.70 mile segment of Beach Drive has resulted in over 1700 cars each weekend driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. As noted above, Culver Street does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations. Hence, the sheer volume of cars alone creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors, especially those with children playing or riding their bikes. Simply put, residents are terrified to even walk their pets on the road each weekend due to the high volumes of cut through traffic directly resulting from the closure of this segment of Beach Drive.</p> <p>Since concerns were initially raised in the fall of 2020, there have been five (5) traffic studies performed on Culver Street. These data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. It should be noted that this is a 45% increase from a count first taken after the program was put into place – meaning that we do not know the full extent of the increase because Montgomery Parks did not collect data to determine a true baseline of weekend traffic prior to the initiation of Open Parkways in 2020. Moreover, the data show that the increases are exponentially higher each time the counts have been taken. For example, there was an increase of 30% between counts taken in January and September of 2023 alone.</p>
639	<p>[MORE IN PART 2]</p> <p>Part 2</p> <p>Although there is no baseline which shows that actual traffic volume increase from before the Open Parkways program until now, there is one piece of data where an “apples to apples” comparison can be performed. In December of 2022, then Parks Director Michael Riley stated: ...increase in Friday traffic is significant ... re-opening Beach Drive is best approach to address legitimate neighborhood concerns</p> <p>Our neighborhood was grateful for the change made in 2022 to remove Friday closures. After the program was modified, Friday traffic volumes on Culver Street decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, as noted above, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays have continued to grow. At the time the program was modified, the Friday traffic count on Culver Street was at 952 cars. By comparison, the latest traffic counts (September 2023) show that Saturday volumes (963) now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe and prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind. It also should be noted that the volume of weekend traffic on Culver Street is more than double than what it is on weekdays.</p> <p>As you are likely well aware, Montgomery Parks has taken counts of the number of pedestrians and bicyclists using Beach Drive each weekend. There have been two counters each of which counts each time a person passes it. It does not identify whether it is a bicycle or a pedestrian. Nonetheless, these two counters are located on the segment between Cedar Lane and Knowles Ave. This is the 2.1 mile segment currently proposed to remain in the Open parkways. The aggregate collection of these data show that the average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It also should be noted that there is a propensity to double count the number of people on Beach as the counters do not take into account the number of people who pass the counter, turn around and get then counted again. Although it can be said that the counts taken on Culver Street also do not identify when a car is counted going each way, this is a distinction with a huge difference. In cases where cars may be counted twice (e.g., a round trip), it is the unavailability of Beach Drive that has forced this car onto a narrow residential road each way thereby doubling the safety risk posed to residents and children. A person passing by a counter twice does not have an impact on safety. Being counted twice also does not show that the program is popular – it merely undermines the integrity of the very data being used to demonstrate the program's “popularity.”</p> <p>Although it was not until 2023 that counts were taken on the segment between Connecticut Ave. and Cedar Lane, the data collected on this segment consistently showed less usage than the Cedar to Knowles segment. Indeed, the usage of this segment was 35% less on average. Hence, re-opening this particular segment also makes sense from a pure volume of use perspective – usage of this segment is even less popular.</p>
640	<p>[MORE IN PART 3]</p> <p>Part 3</p> <p>Our neighborhood anticipates that there will be strong opposition to re-opening this 0.70 mile segment of Beach Drive largely from the bicyclist community around the DMV – many of whom have not even used the stretch of road in question. The usage data would clearly show this. Rather, letters will be provided from all over the DMV based in principle and opinion. The ironic truth is that we are all advocating for the same ideals – the safety of county residents. However, what distinguishes the advocacy and concerns that our neighborhood has raised from the views of cycling community is the data. With a 70% plus decline in usage of Open Parkways on Saturdays and Sundays, the data do not support arguments of wild popularity and usage. On the other hand, spillover traffic on residential streets – where people live - has gone the other direction. If the message of those opposing the re-opening of this segment is one of safety, I encourage a quick look at the data and conducting a very basic risk-benefit assessment. We all agree that safety is paramount and should always come first, particularly when it involves pedestrians. Popularity, personal preference, opinions and principle alone should always be secondary to safety in this space. The risk of diverting an exponentially increasing volume of over 2000 cars down a residential street without sidewalks for the benefit of a road closure with a trending decrease in pedestrian/cyclist usage of 70 plus percent makes for a very simple risk-benefit calculation. When one considers that the closed road already has a sidewalk/pedestrian pathway while the residential street does not, the risk to benefit disparity is even more profound. I am happy that this proposal has taken a common sense, safety and data-driven approach and hope that those opposing it based on principle and opinion alone can understand our position. Perhaps a bike ride down Culver Street on a Saturday would put things in perspective.</p> <p>I am a runner who has used the trails next to Beach Drive for marathon training and recreation for over 20 years. This trail has always been more than adequate. It has never been overly crowded and is sufficiently wide to accommodate runners, walkers and bicyclists alike. Advanced cyclists have always been able to safely share the road with cars – particularly because the speed limits on Beach Drive are low. I have heard many people support the closures simply because it provided a place for them to teach their children how to ride their bikes, etc. It should be noted that the trail is also adequate for this purpose. I was able to teach all three of my children to ride their bikes in Rock Creek Park on the trail and never had an issue. Ironically, training young cyclists on the trail is actually safer as they are not in the way of the advanced cyclists riding up to 15 to 20 MPH on Beach Drive. Moreover, if there is a desire to teach children to ride their bikes on Beach Drive (and not the trail running parallel to it), should this proposal go through successfully, there will still be over two miles of Beach Drive on which to engage in such recreation.</p> <p>In sum, the proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common-sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity and principle. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Michael S. Heyl Andrea M. Heyl</p>
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642	<p>I support a car free beach drive. I am always happy to see people of all ages and capabilities cycling and walking on this route. It's my favorite place to ride!</p> <p>While I do not live on the portion of Culver St. most affected by cut through traffic and recognize my neighbors' safety/traffic concerns, I have enjoyed using beach dr during closures since covid and will miss using the Conn to Cedar section without vehicles, if reopened. I oppose the proposed modification as written.</p> <p>The ability to use beach drive for biking/walking on weekends with no cars increases the safety for recreational bikers (and walkers). I recommend 1) seeking other methods to reduce cut through traffic (do not enter Delmont from Cedar and/or Culver from Ct during certain hours/ticketing). 2) I support expanding the open hours to Friday. 3) starting the closure at 9am on Fri would allow the early rush hour from Conn Ave to Cedar to avoid the neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you to the board for weighing pros and cons of all options.</p>
643	<p>Thanks, Emily Barry 9820 Culver St Kensington MD 20895-3653</p>

	Walking on Beach Drive is an incredible treasure for this community and those in Montgomery County who drive to Kensington. As someone who lives on Knowles, my family supports keeping it closed to traffic without any reduction in hours and length.  Some community members selfishly have complained that their driving habits have to change because of this. Our driving habits and traffic flow are impacted too but this is a small tax we pay for the wide community benefit of this beautiful walking nature preserve.
644	I hope there is no reduction to hours and length of closure.
645	Please keep beach drive car free on weekends and extended weekends.
646	My family loves the open parkway and we strongly support making it permanent. My children use the space riding Friday through Sunday, and often during the week. We need more routes for the health of the community. Please keep this one.
647	Please keep Beach drive closed to cars and trucks Fri-Sun as recommended by MoCo Parks.
648	Thank you for the opportunity to comment about Beach Drive Open Parkway. I have enjoyed using the open parkway on a weekly basis for many reasons - running, cycling, walking with friends. It is a valuable asset to have accessible. Nowhere throughout the county can you find this much open space to move freely and with room to do so with company. I urge you to keep Beach Drive open for this use.  I live in Randolph Hills, located at the end of Beach Drive. We have SO much cut-through traffic in our neighborhood every morning and evening rush hour. We have brought this issue to the County many, many times. Nothing has ever been done. Cut through traffic continues to plague our neighborhood and continues to increase. I feel like an increase in cut through traffic for the Parkwood community, is a small change to adapt to for the freedom of many to use Beach Drive as an open parkway. For me, this decision is an equity issue.  We are writing to support the Montgomery Parks proposal to make the Open Parkways program permanent with several modifications. The most impactful modification and the one that we, as a citizen's association, strongly and without hesitation support is the reopening of the .70-mile segment of Beach Dr. from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.  This segment of Beach Dr., which is currently closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is parallel to Culver St. which is part of the Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands neighborhood. The closure of Beach Dr. on weekends and holidays has resulted in the diversion of a significant volume of traffic onto Culver St. and adjacent streets. Additionally, Culver St. is a narrow street lacking sidewalks and traffic abatement measures. Recent traffic studies, conducted by MC DOT and MC Parks has demonstrated that there are approximately 1700 to 2000 cars that traverse Culver St. every weekend. This very large and unacceptable volume of traffic has been the source of great consternation for our neighbors. Our primary concern has been the health and safety of the children and residents who live on and use Culver Street. We have a special concern for an individual with special needs who lives on this street. The situation is exacerbated as traffic volume increased since Google Maps, Waze and other mobile apps guide users onto Culver St. on weekends and holidays. Historically, this segment was also closed on Fridays until December 2022. Data showed that the traffic volume for the months leading up to December 2022 was so high and dangerous for pedestrians (more than 950 cars in one day on Culver St.), that Parks reopened Beach Drive on Fridays. It is important to note that Culver St. traffic volumes on Fridays decreased by 60% when Beach Dr. was reopened. This clearly shows the correlation between the closures on Beach Drive to excessive spillover traffic onto Culver St. However, Culver St. traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays have continued to grow- with volumes now exceeding the 950 cars per day benchmark that prompted the Friday re-opening of Beach Dr.  Studies conducted by MCDOT and MC Parks demonstrate that weekend car traffic is steadily increasing on Culver St. while usage of Beach Dr. has decreased. This is not surprising since the pandemic has waned, and people have returned to work. Notably, traffic volumes on Culver St. increased each time the counts were measured with an over 30% increase between January and September of 2023 alone. Simultaneously, MC Parks data show that average weekend usage of Beach Dr. has steadily decreased by 73.5% on Saturdays and 71% on Sundays since 2020 between April 2020 and December 2023. Concerned with the safety of our neighbors, this Citizens Association has been strongly advocating for the last three years that the segment of Beach Dr. from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. be completely reopened to all vehicular traffic. We appreciate the support and guidance of our local elected representatives, notably County Council Members Gabe Albornoz and Kate Stewart.  The modification is supported by data and properly prioritizes the safety of county residents over a road closure that produces limited benefit. Beach Dr. has a pedestrian path that can continue to be used – as it has been since the 1970s. In conclusion, the Citizens Association believes that this proposal reopening of the .70-mile segment of Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays is consistent with promoting health and protecting the safety of pedestrians and is consistent with the County's Vision Zero and Safe Streets initiative.  We strongly urge the Planning Board to pass this proposal from the Department of Parks. Thank you for considering these comments. Eileen Sarsfield, President John Loveland, Vice President Secretary, Dayna Regalado Treasurer, Pierron Leaf Transportation Committee Chairs-Mark Redmiles & Mike Heyl
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650	Great news that the road closures will stay in effect. However, it seems that drivers will now clog Cedar Lane which is a narrow road with prime access to Kensington and NIH/Walter Reed. The full 2.9 miles makes more sense with drivers diverted to Connecticut Ave which is much wider than Cedar Lane. If the full 2.9 miles is not feasible Fri-Sun, I'd prefer the option of 2.9 miles for just Sat-Sun.
650	Hello, I support opening the .6 mile stretch between Connecticut Avenue and Cedar lane fully. I have lived in this area for 35+ years and am raising children in the adjacent neighborhood. I have used the bike path for decades and appreciate the goal of open spaces but this part of Beach Drive is a vital connector for traffic in this part of southern Montgomery county— especially with Walter Reed now. This was made very clear to me this spring when a major accident on the beltway resulted in overflow traffic seeking to get to Wisconsin Avenue/270 backing up the entire length of this part of beach drive (it was a weekday so luckily it was open to accommodate the traffic escaping the beltway).  The closure of this small section of Beach Drive has a disproportionate impact on the residents of BRCH as numerous cars and trucks use Culver street as a cut though. The volume is too much for a residential street with families and no sidewalks. I have several times been almost hit (in my car and on foot) by inconsiderate cut through drivers. (It also creates a dangerous situation on northbound Connecticut Avenue when cars that want to turn left onto beach drive realize they cannot and then veer back into traffic to continue to Culver).  During covid I used the beach drive closure a bit but now when I'm out walking and jogging I use the path and have seen very little continued use of this section of road. Recreational bicyclists can use the path or road and the serious bikers can and do keep up with traffic so there is just no need to keep this .6 mile section closed.  I ask you to reopen this part of Beach Drive in order to facilitate traffic management and reduce danger on Culver Street and Delmont in BRCH. It is unsafe and illogical to maintain a road closure for the convenience of a few hard core biking enthusiasts, to the detriment of hundreds of families in an adjacent neighborhood that was not designed for this. If bicyclists want more space on beach drive there should be ample room in the right of way to accommodate them.  Please rectify this situation.
651	Thank you.
652	I love Beach Drive been closed to cars on weekends, including Fridays, and go there to skate or run all the time. Please keep it like that permanently. Thank you!
653	This is a great idea! I love that beach drive is closed to cars on weekends, and love that this could become a permanent addition, including on Fridays. This makes me feel very safe while riding my bike or skating and not having cars around is more relaxing and adds to the benefits of working out in nature.  Please keep Beach Drive and all public parkways free of the destructive and dangerous automobiles permanently! Such parks are built for the citizens so they can get healthy and well by walking, running, biking, picnics, etc., NOT for some people to drive through them while endangering all living organisms, including humans! All parks should be preserved for healthy and safe activities! Thanks for all your hard work to serve the communities that entrusted such responsibilities upon you! Best regards,
654	Hirut of Silver Spring, MD
655	Make Beach drive permanently closed to cars.

	<p>I am against closing Beach Drive at all on Fridays and want the short segment of Beach Drive from Franklin Street to Grosvenor Lane/Rockville Pike to stay open to cars at all times to let Parkwood residents efficiently enter and leave their neighborhood to access the beltway, Grosvenor metro, and areas west of Rockville Pike.</p> <p>There are two types of impacts from the Beach Drive closure - increased cut through traffic on streets in Parkwood, and the increased travel time and inconvenience for Parkwood residents to enter and exit the neighborhood efficiently. For me, the increased travel time to enter/exit the neighborhood is important.</p> <p>The planning study conducted ignores impacts on Parkwood residents to efficiently access Rockville Pike and the beltway. The short road segment from Beach at Franklin north to Beach at Grosvenor/Rockville Pike is crucial to efficiently reach Rockville Pike to go west on the beltway, to go across the Pike towards Montgomery mall, and to go north on Rockville Pike. This road segment is around 10% of the the distance from Connecticut to Knowles. The planning study did not collect data for how many cars enter or exit the neighborhood at Beach/Franklin, so you can't properly evaluate this road segment.</p> <p>At a minimum I would like to see this short stretch of Beach Drive kept open at all times. There are multiple ways to implement this, including having pedestrians and slow bikers use the existing trail for this short segment of Beach Drive. There is currently a stretch of Rock Creek Parkway in DC that is open for cars even when the Parkway is closed on weekends.</p> <p>Parkwood residents were not informed or included in planning this study, so the burdens on Parkwood residents of not being able to use Beach Drive to access Rockville Pike at Grosvenor was not even considered.</p> <p>I have lived in Parkwood and used the trails in the park for 37 years, and feel that the trail in the park is totally adequate. As a biker, I also have shared the road with cars along Beach Drive without any problems. There are also so many not great weather days where Beach is closed and no one is using it, that I feel it is a real waste to close it for three days a week. At least allow residents to use the stretch from Franklin to Grosvenor to access Rockville Pike. Alternate routes have multiple traffic lights, school entrances that slow traffic, and heavy rush hour traffic that takes more time and adds stress for Parkwood residents. There are plenty of park spaces and trails for people to use.</p>
656	<p>I have been a resident of the Byforde-Rock Creek Highlands neighborhood for over six years, and this home has been in my family since 1991. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.</p> <p>Ever since Beach Drive has been closed, I have witnessed more and more through-traffic on my street, Saul Road, as drivers seek to traverse our neighborhood between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue. Many of these drivers are unmindful and inconsiderate of residents as they drive aggressively down our streets. Although the County many years ago installed speed humps, some fly down the street at times double the posted speed limit of 25 mph. In addition to speed, I have over the past two years endured acts of road rage as I attempt to back my vehicle into my driveway. These drivers cannot wait, so they attempt to go around, honk their horns, and have even driven onto my lawn to save themselves ten seconds.</p> <p>I am also an avid cyclist and jogger. I enjoy wonderful area trails such as the C&amp;O Canal. But this is our neighborhood first and foremost. We pay the taxes. We vote for County Council members. The visiting cyclists do not.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
657	<p>This should only operate on weekends. There was too much cut through traffic when it was open on Fridays. Friday is a work day for most people, and the parkway is underutilized by cyclists on most Fridays. The parkway should be open to motor vehicles until after the evening rush hour on Fridays, and it should be</p>
658	<p>open to motor vehicles in the winter when there is very little usage of the open parkway.</p>
659	<p>I support making the open parkway permanent with the recommended times, but it should be from Knowles to Connecticut.</p>
660	<p>With a looming climate crisis and thousands of preventable road deaths every year, I commend every effort by Montgomery County to take more cars off the road.</p>
661	<p>Please keep the program permanent as is and do not reduce the length or hours! This is a great resource for a community that is so heavy with automobile infrastructure. It is nice to have a place to ride and use as a thoroughfare that is car free.</p>
662	<p>Beach Drive offers one of the few unfettered places for cyclists, runners, and pedestrians to enjoy activities car-free. Such a long and open way for non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians from the District into this portion of Maryland must be treasured and preserved. It offers recreation and safe travel through an otherwise dense and urban landscape. Please preserve the current track and the hours of use for the betterment of the entire community!</p>
663	<p>Please keep Beach Drive car-free on the weekends permanently (including Friday). As users other than those living in the immediate vicinity use this resource, please maintain the closure to Connecticut Ave. Traffic concerns on Culver could be addressed by engineering fixes, and reassessed later to determine efficacy. The benefits of Open Parkways to the larger community merit continued access to CT Ave. Thank you.</p>
664	<p>Yes. This is a great idea. People love this opportunity to enjoy this car free space.</p>
665	<p>Perhaps closing more of Beach Drive would eliminate the cut through traffic in the neighborhood that is concerned. If the section between Connecticut at Jones Mill was closed as well, drivers would forced to use a different road than Beach Drive at the point that is causing the issues. So few roads are devoted to non-car usage, we should have more.</p>
666	<p>Keep Beach Drive car-free on the weekends.</p>
667	<p>I agree with the extended hours. I use the parkway for long runs almost every Sunday. I prefer the stretch between Cedar and Connecticut remain closed to vehicles. Thank you!</p>
668	<p>Please, please keep Beach Drive closed to cars over weekends and holiday weekends! I run this beautiful closed road regularly on weekends. When I've run this road on weekdays, however, I am scared as drivers are not paying attention to runners or bikers and are going too fast and driving too close to runners. Scary!</p>
669	<p>While I would love to keep the 2.9 miles in place, I would be good with the time changes if no further modifications are made in the future to the distance closed and the duration of closure.</p>
670	<p>I love the Open Parkway program. Please keep Beach Dr open the entire 2.9 miles. Cars have plenty of space to occupy and can choose from many alternate routes.</p>
671	<p>Maintain the current length. Otherwise you will increase the volume of bicycles on the pedestrian path. As someone who frequently walks this path, it has become dangerous with bicyclists speeding on the trail and passing pedestrians without warning.</p>
672	<p>Please keep the Beach Drive parkway 2.9 miles from Knowles Avenue to Connecticut Avenue as it is currently. This is a wonderful and beautiful aspect of area!</p>
673	<p>The CT Ave to Cedar Ln portion is an important section to keep car free. If this section is open to cars, then the multi-use trail that is parallel should be widened to accommodate additional pedestrian, bike and other traffic that will be diverted from the road.</p>
674	<p>Please provide an open to ride experience for bicycles. Rock Creek Park is a gem to be protected by delimiting vehicular access. Thank you!</p>
675	<p>I'm very much in favor of keeping the road closed to vehicle traffic, for as long a time period and for as long a length as can be achieved. It's a great benefit to county residents, and hardly impacts traffic at all.</p>
676	<p>On weekends, Beach Drive becomes the best bike trail in the county. It provides a smooth, well maintained journey through beautiful parkland. Beach Drive and Rock Creek Park together is one of the best public amenities the county provides. Unfortunately, on weekdays, it's not much more than another highway. Reducing the length of the car closer will only reduce the benefit of this valuable public space. Opening parkland for cars for extra convenience goes against the vision and purpose of the park as a place to recreate and preserve nature. Instead, cars will continue to pollute the creek and make the road inhospitable to walkers and bikers. It will be a step backward to benefit the very few wealthy homeowners who benefit from the park as a shortcut. Instead, please consider advancing steps to close the whole of Beach from traffic at all times. It does not serve a real commercial or functional need and nearly all residents can easily find a vehicular workaround. It is not clear what Parks or Thrive goal continuing Beach Drive as a commuter route provides. Instead, make it a true park for the users who value it the most.</p>

	<p>I am a 37-year resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common-sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal.</p> <p>Sincerely, John F. Wallerstedt</p> <p>9626 Carriage Rd. Kensington, MD 20895</p>
677	Agree with proposal.
678	<p>I strongly support eliminating the 0.7 mile portion of the Beach Drive Open Parkway between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue due to neighborhood cut-through traffic and safety issues. This portion of Beach Drive directly parallels Culver Street in the Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands neighborhood. Culver Street is easily accessible from both the major highway Connecticut Avenue and the arterial Cedar Lane requiring traveling only one additional block from Beach Drive to use this non-primary residential road as a substitute for Beach Drive, a heavily-traveled Park road. Signage placed to direct traffic away from Culver Street when Beach Drive is closed has failed woefully. The primary residential road in this neighborhood, Saul Road, is not a logical substitute especially to drivers that are not given clear instructions to help them avoid the non-primary residential road, Culver Street. Many of the signs are placed in the wrong spots, have illogical wording, have lettering too small to read while driving, or are covered by foliage.</p> <p>Culver Street does not have sidewalks, crossing guards, speed calming measures, or stop signs to protect pedestrians from the large increase in cars using this street when Beach Drive is closed. Most houses have driveways of just one car width, leaving many cars parked along the street. When traffic is not stacked up in front of residents' driveways due to increased volume on the weekends, pedestrians (and parked cars) are faced with cars that are speeding to get from one main road to another and must dodge many parked cars. This safety risk is not acceptable.</p>
679	
	<p>I wish to strongly support making the Open Parkway a permanent program, Friday to Sunday. Having the extended parkway open has been a wonderful amenity for Montgomery County, and makes using Beach Drive as a bike route much more practical for casual riders. Speaking for myself as primarily a bicycle rider on Beach Drive, the open parkway makes the ride feel so much safer, while avoiding the congestion, indirect routing, and hills on the trail. I use Beach Drive on the weekend to get from Silver Spring to classes near Grosvenor, and the improvement has been very noticeable. Please remember that having an open Beach Drive is not only a recreational amenity, but an important connection for people running errands as well!</p>
680	Restoring automotive traffic from Cedar to Connecticut is a shame, particularly given the sheer size of the Connecticut Ave intersection and how dangerous it already feels to bike around that. I wish this section could remain open, or at least some sort of pedestrian/bike improvements to make that intersection feel safer.
	I very strongly support keeping the entire distance of Beach closed (as it is now on weekends) from Knowles to Connecticut. Montgomery County Road Runners, with hundreds of members, uses this section of Beach Drive extensively on the weekends. Many others in the community including walkers, bikers, and other runners, also use the length of Beach drive.
681	
682	I strongly support having Beach Drive closed to cars on the weekends.
	I prefer to see all 2.9 miles remaining closed as currently managed. The Connecticut to Cedar portion is also highly used and I have my doubts about the statistics that show this not to be case. The county should not be making this change based on the views of a few NIMBYs who are upset about additional vehicle traffic in their neighborhood.
683	
684	Please extend the hours to include Friday!
	Rather than shortening the closure, consider instituting one-way traffic the opposite the direction of cut-through traffic on the affected streets during the Beach Dr closures.
685	With respect to starting the closure on Friday morning, the many people who are able to use Beach Dr for recreation during the week would massively benefit from that. I certainly enjoyed it when it was in effect.
686	Very happy with the idea of increasing the time of year this is happening but ideally we would be looking for more not less public space for non car activities.
	My children and I have so enjoyed riding our bikes up and down Beach Drive many weekends since the closures went into effect. This has been such a wonderful activity for our family. So much of our area is unsafe for young children to bike/play with freedom because of the danger of cars. Please, please keep Beach Drive in Montgomery County free of cars as many days a week as is at all possible. People can drive their cars freely over so much of our area. Please keep this car-free space car-free!
687	-Sam Collins
	I am in support of any changes that will extend the operating hours or physical extent of the Beach Drive road closure, aka the Open Parkway. I believe it is of much greater benefit to residents as a car-free greenway than it is as another road dominated by automobile traffic.
688	Thank you for your consideration.
689	I ride from Kensington MD to Georgetown almost everyday ...car free beach drive is a DREAM i hope to not wake up from thank you!
	This would be very dangerous for the thousands of bicyclists and walkers that enjoy it. It's critical to the safety of Montgomery County's citizens that as much of Beach Drive as possible remain car-free. And by comparison, it's much more important to our health and welfare than asking drivers to take a slightly different route and incur a small inconvenience. We appreciate your efforts! Thank you
690	
	I would recommend extending the opening time to 7 or even 8 PM in the summer - the sun stays out much past 6 for all of summer so there is plenty of light and preemptively closing the road limits the times that we can walk/run/bike, especially on days when it may be too hot to exercise during much of the day.
	I would also recommend keeping the Cedar to Connecticut part of the closure and if anything, extending the closure for a longer length of beach. I use that section often when I run on beach during the weekends and being able to run on the steet and not having vehicles making noise and spewing exhaust is valuable to me across the entire stretch of beach that is currently closed. I would love to have even more open road to run on where I did not need to worry about cars at all.
691	I have no strong opinions about closing or opening the road on Fridays. It would be nice to run after work on Fridays on the street, but a 6pm closure time would make that difficult.
692	Wouldn't mind it being longer but I understand why it had to be shrunk slightly. I appreciate the extended hours into Friday.
	I appreciate the effort to extend the operating hours to include Friday but am concerned about the plan to eliminate the open parkway between Cedar Ln and Connecticut. That area is still heavily used by myself and others seeking a safe stretch of road. Is cut-through traffic by those outside the neighborhood any worse than other areas impacted by the closures on beach drive? I doubt it and would appreciate if we could keep the parkway open without reductions in length for complaints of this nature. Thank you for your time.
693	
	I don't particularly like shortening the length of the closed roadway -- cutting 3/4 of a mile cuts 1.5 miles off a round trip, dramatically shortening the amount of space available. But I understand there might be big value for the people who live adjacent.
	More importantly, I want to advocate closing the roadway on Mondays and federal holidays.
	Closed Friday-Monday means that the roadway remains open on the worst traffic days (Tues-Thurs), and that those with slightly non-standard weekends, like restaurant employees who often work Weds-Sun, are more likely to be able to take advantage of this great resource.
694	Separately, the roadway should be closed on federal holidays. Many of those are Mondays, and would be covered by a policy of closing through Monday as well, but many federal holidays are not Mondays, or float -- such as Thanksgiving, Juneteenth, and July 4th. The large local federal workforce means that on these days there is a sizable number of people who would be interested in using the park.
695	Please continue the car-free section to Connecticut Ave. You would otherwise be cutting off an easier connection to the reopened CCT.
	I am a DC resident who bikes regularly in the Rock Creek Park system, including up the trail through this segment of Beach Drive in Montgomery Co. I have also biked this section with my family on weekend outings. Closing the road to cars creates a safe environment for people to enjoy the park and bike in a quieter setting without having to worry about traffic. I strongly support keeping the road closed to cars Friday to Sunday. I would support keeping more of the road closed as well.
696	

697	<p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume, as well as the speed from many of these drivers. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.</p> <p>Sincerely, Residents of Culver Street: Nan and Fred Weir</p>
698	<p>Please please PLEASE keep as much of beach drive free from cars and vehicle traffic as possible. Vehicles have other places to go - with major roads that go North / South (16th street / Conn Ave, etc). Bicyclists, walkers, joggers, rollerbladers, do not have anywhere else safe to travel to the city north to south. Please go experience what Beach drive is like when it is closed to traffic. It is a slice of heaven that is a major benefit of living in the DC area, and an incredible way to encourage people to get out of cars and into other modes of transport. Keeping beach drive closed to traffic is better for public health, traffic congestion (by taking cars off the road), the climate, and our communities.</p>
699	<p>The traffic cutting down Culver Street during the hours that Beach Drive is closed over the weekend continues to be heavy and dangerous. We have several neighbors walking along Culver, and I constantly witness cars speeding down the street to Connecticut. As well-meaning the thought of having a carless park to enjoy over the weekend, the risk incurred is simply too high. Thank you.</p>
700	<p>Honestly, what is the point of closing the road at all? There is a perfectly fine paved trail running through the park for non-vehicle traffic to use. Closing the roadway just creates yet more unnecessary congestion for the sake of being anti-car.</p>
701	<p>I support have Beach Drive open again. The closure has caused a totally unacceptable amount of traffic on Culver Street. Thereby, creating very unsafe conditions for our neighborhood.</p>
702	<p>I support the use of Beach Drive as a pedestrian and bike-friendly corridor.</p>
703	<p>I support expanding the hours to include Friday for access but I would prefer to see all 2.9 miles remain accessible rather than reducing the length of open parkway</p>
704	<p>In our area, it's difficult to find safe, car-free places to cycle, run, and walk. This is a great idea to allow more people to safely access the park!</p>
705	<p>The Cedar to Connecticut segment is an important part of the park experience for biking and jogging. Please don't implement the modification to keep it open on weekends to traffic, or perhaps close it only on Sunday when there is less traffic to burden the adjoining neighborhood So at least one day we have the whole stretch closed. In the summer keep the roads closed till 8 pm.</p>
706	<p>Parkwood is a residential community that borders Beach Drive on its southern and western boundaries. As a part of the County's Open Parkways Program, Beach Drive is currently closed to traffic from Cedar Lane to Knowles Avenue beginning on Saturday at 7:00 AM through Sunday at 4:00PM EST / 6:00PM DST. A draft recommendation of the staff of the Montgomery County Department of Parks to the Montgomery County Planning Board dated May 2, 2024, recommends that in addition to the Saturday/Sunday closure, the portion of Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Knowles Avenue also be closed on Fridays beginning at 9:00 AM and continuing through the weekend.</p> <p>The Parkwood Residents Association [PRA] surveyed its members regarding this proposed change. The overwhelming majority (80%) of the members of the Association voted AGAINST Parks' recommendation to close Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Knowles Avenue on Friday. We therefore ask that the Montgomery County Department of Parks NOT close Beach Drive to traffic from Cedar Lane to Knowles Avenue on Fridays and that it remain open as it is now.</p> <p>We must point out that the Planning Board usually notifies neighborhoods of issues under consideration that are going to affect them. The PRA president and vice president routinely receive such notices and are able to share that information with Parkwood residents who might want to comment. There was no notice about this issue. We did not know this proposal had been made until hearing about it from a fellow resident on May 9th, with a deadline to comment to Parks by May 30th, and the Planning Board hearing on June 13th. Nevertheless, we convened a meeting of the PRA membership to discuss Parks' proposal and followed that with a survey of all members. The result, as noted, is clear opposition to Parks proposal to close Beach Drive to traffic from Cedar Lane to Knowles Avenue on Fridays.</p> <p>We regret that in this instance Montgomery Parks did not consult in advance with the Parkwood community, whose members are the ones who would be most affected by this proposed change. This section of Beach Drive has not been closed on Fridays since December 2022.</p> <p>We would look forward to an open discussion with Parks staff about our concerns. Among other issues, we are concerned that the opening of Beach Drive from Connecticut Avenue to Cedar Lane, as Parks is proposing, will divert more drivers into the Parkwood neighborhood when they find that Beach Drive is closed at Cedar Lane on Fridays. If Beach Drive is in fact opened to traffic from Connecticut Avenue to Cedar Lane at all times, closing Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Knowles Avenue on Fridays should not be done without further consultation with, and analysis of the impact on the Parkwood community.</p> <p>In addition, while most PRA members support the closure of Beach Drive on the weekends, we would like to explore with Parks options for allowing residents to enter and exit our neighborhood more easily, if that is feasible.</p> <p>Submitted on behalf of the Parkwood Residents Association Kira Lueders, President Jeff Griffith, Vice President</p>
707	<p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands, writing to support the proposed permanent reopening of the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue. Our neighborhood association has long advocated for data-driven, safety-focused policies. The proposal to reopen this segment is practical and supported by data collected over the past four years, indicating it will enhance neighborhood safety.</p> <p>Key data points include: A 45% increase in cut-through traffic since April 2020, with over 1700 cars now using narrow residential streets unsuited for such volumes. Lack of sidewalks, speed bumps, and other traffic mitigations exacerbates the safety risks, especially for children. Traffic volumes on weekends are more than double weekday volumes, with a significant spike since the closure. Notably, after the program excluded Fridays in December 2022, Friday traffic decreased by over 60%. However, Saturday and Sunday traffic continued to grow, now exceeding previously unsafe Friday levels. Additionally, pedestrian and cyclist use of the affected segment is 35% lower than other segments and has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since 2020. This decline in non-vehicular use, coupled with increased traffic, highlights the need for change. Reopening this segment of Beach Drive is a common-sense, data-driven solution aligning with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to safer streets in our neighborhood.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michael Preston</p>

	<p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands, writing to express my strong support for the proposed permanent reopening of the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue.</p> <p>As a member of our neighborhood association, I have advocated for data-driven, safety-focused policies from the start of the Open Parkways Program. The proposal to reopen this segment is practical and backed by data collected over the past four years, indicating it will improve safety in our community.</p> <p>Key data points include:</p> <p>A 45% increase in cut-through traffic since April 2020, with over 1700 cars now using narrow residential streets unsuited for such volumes.</p> <p>The absence of sidewalks, speed bumps, and other traffic mitigations exacerbates the safety risks, especially for children.</p> <p>Weekend traffic volumes are more than double weekday volumes, with a significant spike since the closure.</p> <p>Notably, after the program excluded Fridays in December 2022, Friday traffic decreased by over 60%. However, Saturday and Sunday traffic continued to grow, now exceeding previously unsafe Friday levels.</p> <p>Additionally, pedestrian and cyclist use of the affected segment is 35% lower than other segments and has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since 2020. This decline in non-vehicular use, coupled with increased traffic, underscores the need for change.</p> <p>Reopening this segment of Beach Drive is a common-sense, data-driven solution aligning with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to safer streets in our neighborhood.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
708	Dr. Caroline Preston
709	Keep Beach Drive car free for families and individuals to use for recreation and fun.
710	This is a ridiculous compromise. You recognize risk from cut through traffic but then increase that risk on Fridays? Reduce the size and keep to Saturdays and Sundays only.
711	I love the Beach Drive closure. I live four blocks away and me and my family use it for different activities throughout the year. Friday until Sunday would be great; I strongly advocate keeping this schedule. My concern is closing between Connecticut and Cedar would push more traffic to the existing closure. Already, between the speeding bikes and peds, things can be a bit hectic. I support keeping the length of the closure as it exists today.
712	Closing Beach Drive to automobile traffic is good for the region and all of its inhabitants. Quality of Urban Life goes up with more trails, fewer automobiles and healthy mobility options for citizens. One day, I hope we can make a permanent greenway (no autos) from Lake Needwood to the Georgetown Canal for the enjoyment of the PEOPLE and forest creatures (not cars).
713	Please keep the full 2.9 miles open to bikes pedestrians. Please make the Open Parkway Program permanent
	<p>change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and</p>
714	70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist
715	Please do not reduce the Open Parkway extent or hours. It's great for family cycling, since kids (and bike trailers) need a little more space than experienced, adult cyclists.
716	I agree with extending the hours back to beginning on Friday. However, I think the whole 2.9 mile section should be closed.
717	The misguided proposal to eliminate the 0.7-mile section between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue would worsen neighborhood traffic and safety. Despite what a couple people may like you to believe, there have been zero collisions or injuries on Culver. If you divert motor vehicle traffic to Cedar Lane by moving the closure there, you will increase traffic, collisions and injuries along the Cedar/Summit/Knowles corridor.
718	Please keep the full closure!
719	Please keep the parkway car-free on the weekends! I love biking and walking through beach drive on the weekends and think it is an incredible amenity to the community.
720	Support for keeping beach drive open longer each weekend.
721	Dear Montgomery Parks, please keep the Beach Drive Open Parkway car-free for the longest-possible time. Thank you. Yours, Mike
722	Please keep Beach Drive closed to cars permanently on weekends, and restore the original hours to include Fridays. It is a scenic roadway and our family often uses it on weekends to bicycle, rollerblade and scooter, walk dog and teach kids to bike in a safe space with natural surroundings.
	<p>Please keep Beach Drive car FREE!</p> <p>Such a Beautiful and phenomenal and EXTRA place for individuals and families to get outside and safely explore, exercise, and experience Nature and a local and National Treasure- Rock Creek Park. Huzzah!!</p> <p>Thank you for including us with this survey and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.</p>
723	Be Well
724	Please keep it open at the extended hours!
	<p>We have been living in Parkwood for 20 years and originally bought our home for its convenience to Kensington, North Bethesda, and Bethesda.</p> <p>With the closure of Beach:</p> <p>You have been causing excessive neighborhood traffic to travel through quiet residential streets that are not used to traffic.</p> <p>You have been causing unnecessary and increased unsafe quiet conditions on residential streets do not have sidewalks creating.</p> <p>You are causing more side-swiped cars and pedestrians hit by cars.</p> <p>You are causing more greenhouse emissions as this creates longer drives in and out of the neighborhood.</p> <p>You are causing unnecessary disruption to the lives in the neighbors getting to and from work as well as running everyday errands.</p> <p>You are causing unnecessary routes for emergency vehicles to get in and out of the neighborhood. This does impact ambulances, fire and rescue, and police.</p>
725	



726	<p>Please keep beach drive closed to car traffic to the greatest extent possible. Greenways are vital to improving the quality of life in our community.</p> <p>School Bus SAFETY ie SAFE Routes To SCHOOLS:</p> <p>As an employee of mcps, I regard Students and Staff SAFETY as priority and having Beach CLOSED at 9AM on a Friday is unheard of for Public School Buses (MY TAX payer money) to have to RE-route their pick-ups AND delivery of STUDENTS at the end of the day on Fridays!! Plus MORE congestion during those times of PICK-UP and DELIVERY in order for SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS to find ALTERNATIVE safe routes to schools....Having been a member of MCCPTA, I have spoken with the BCC and WJ clusters about this situation. We bought our HOME ALONG Beach Drive 20 years ago (raised three kids who WALKED every day to KP, went to NB and WJ) and do NOT want to be BULLIED by BIKERS who can use the TRAILS that are already provided for them and runners/walkers/dog walkers along Beach Drive. These BIKERS do not HEED the STOP signs or follow common COURTESIES when traveling with their packs. The county has already MESSED up Olde Georgetown Road with the 'Bike Lanes' and has caused undo STRESS on commutes to and from WORK and SCHOOL.Plus, this was a COVID initiative (by state Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher) and covid is OVER - do NOT use it as an EXCUSE to keep Beach closed - things need to be returned to NORMAL! Drivers have NOT been stopping at STOP signs - it is NOT stopitonal....we live near the corner of PARKWOOD and FRANKLIN and have seen this.This is a ludicrous idea and we have had enough. Please STOP the madness!</p> <p>Sincerely, Jennifer Erin-Nye Cope 9907 Parkwood Drive 'bethesda', md 20814 301)530-0884</p>
727	
728	<p>Keeping these portions of Beach Drive open are essential. Cyclists and pedestrians are increasingly at risk and have fewer and fewer SAFE options of where to go where their risk of being hit isn't high. I live in Baltimore County and drive to Montgomery County to take advantage of this on weekends. I work in Virginia and would stay in the area - likely spending money to eat, buying gas, etc., afterwards - boosting your economy - If this were permanent.</p>
729	<p>Keep Beach Drive car-free on the weekends. Thank you.</p>
730	<p>As a female runner, I love having Beach Drive available as a place I can safely run on the weekends. The new proposal times sound fine to me, but I also don't live in the neighborhood. If it makes things more difficult for residents, I would say keep things as they are so there isn't a backlash against the closures as a whole.</p>
731	<p>I support the proposal to keep Beach Drive car-free on weekends and Fridays.</p>
732	<p>This program has been extremely successful in my opinion has been instrumental in getting myself to bike more throughout the county. This particular route I use all the time and every time I use it I seem a lot of people from other bicyclist to family's walking with their kids on the drive. I would like to urge the parks and planning board to make this program permanent and preferably at the original closure points from Connecticut Ave.</p>
733	<p>Please keep the current program in place. The park operates best as a park rather than a commuter thoroughway. The current limitations on access to the park are minimal, and the benefits of increased access to green space are tremendous.</p>
734	<p>Please keep Beach Drive open for cycling and pedestrians (closed to motorists). Our entire family, including two young children use Beach drive every weekend (including Fridays) to ride our bikes together and enjoy the outdoors.</p>
735	<p>I am opposed to proposed modifications. Maintaining the current 2.9 mile stretch of Beach Drive is important to give adequate space for bike use, particularly for children and bikers who are not comfortable near cars. The nearby Rock Creek Trail has heavier pedestrian traffic which makes biking more of a challenge. I feel for those who are experiencing neighborhood cut-through traffic issues. Perhaps, temporary, partial-barriers saying "No thru traffic" can be placed on streets where this is an issue, similar to what's done in parts of DC.</p>
736	<p>I support the Montgomery County Department of Parks proposal to reopen Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. permanently on weekends and holidays.</p>
737	<p>I love the Beach Drive Open Parkway! It's a perfect place to safely ride bikes with both my kids and my 70+ parents. I strongly support the extended hours and making the Beach Drive Open Parkway Program permanent! Thank you</p>
738	<p>The traffic through the neighborhood on a Friday, throughout the day will increase and is already somewhat dangerous with cars looking to avoid backups on Cedar. There is an Elementary School on Saul as well as School bus pickups and dropoffs. There are not enough people using the stretch of Beach Drive for exercise to justify the potential danger caused by increased traffic. It is already a bad situation.</p>
739	<p>The reduction in the length of the Beach Drive Open Parkway is a step backward in my opinion. Surely, there must be other ways of addressing cut-through traffic in the neighborhood without resorting to scaling back the Open Parkway. On the other hand, the extension of the operating hours is a welcome addition.</p>
740	<p>I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands. I'm writing in support of the proposal change to the Open Parkway to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. When that stretch of the park is closed it forces cars into our neighborhood. We have narrow streets and no sidewalks. There are plenty of walkers and people on bikes who are impacted by all the additional traffic. In the interest of safety to the pedestrians and bikers in the neighborhood it would be much appreciated if this cut through traffic could be eliminated.</p>
741	<p>I approve of the modification to the closures. This is because the underpass of CT avenue is preferable to crossing the street. Having said that, the underpass (or tunnel, not sure of the correct term) that allows one to cross under CT avenue has often been muddy or puddly if the weather has been wet for several days. Please address that issue to make the alternative more viable for both pedestrians and bikers. Thank you!</p>
742	<p>I am writing in support of the proposed change to the Open Parkways to reopen the 0.7-mile section of Beach Drive between Cedar Lane and Connecticut Avenue on a permanent basis. I am a resident of Byeforde-Rock Creek Highlands, and I live on Culver Street, a narrow neighborhood street that parallels Beach Drive. The closure of Beach Drive has diverted significant traffic here, where residential parking narrows the street so that there are places where only one car can get through at a time.</p> <p>Indeed, the problem has been shown on a recent NBC4 news report in which the reporter stated that our "street has been turned into a nightmare," and proved it with footage of the jammed traffic with "cars stacked-up trying to find a quick cut-through in the neighborhood." See <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdp1WG8DxHk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdp1WG8DxHk</a>.</p> <p>This would not be happening if proper administrative procedures had been followed before the closure was implemented that would have at least required some mitigative measures before the closure went into effect.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association has advocated since the inception of the Open Parkways Program that county policies need to be data-driven and in the best interest of safety. The proposal to remove this segment of Beach Drive is not only practical, but also driven by the data that the county has collected over the last four years and should improve the safety of our neighborhood.</p> <p>The data clearly show that the neighborhood cut-through traffic volumes have increased steadily each time the traffic is counted. Overall, there has been a 45% increase in traffic volumes since the program began in April of 2020. The unintended consequence of the Beach Drive closure of this .7-mile segment results in an excess of 1700 cars driving down narrow residential streets that were never intended to handle this volume. When one considers that our neighborhood does not have sidewalks, speedbumps or other traffic mitigations, this volume creates a significant safety issue for our neighbors and especially to children playing, going to school or riding their bikes. Weekend traffic volumes are more than double the weekday traffic volumes.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the Beach Drive closure and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. After the program was modified to remove Fridays in December of 2022, Friday traffic volumes decreased by more than 60%. Unfortunately, the traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays continued to grow. The latest traffic counts show that Saturday volumes now exceed the Friday volumes considered unsafe prompting the change in 2022. Sunday volumes aren't far behind.</p> <p>Re-opening this particular segment also makes sense because weekend pedestrian and bicyclist use on this segment is 35% less than the Cedar to Knowles segment. It also should be noted that average weekend pedestrian/cyclist usage of Beach Dr. has decreased by 73% on Saturdays and 70% on Sundays since the program started in 2020. It is alarming that Beach pedestrian/cyclist usage actually decreased while traffic in our neighborhood increased.</p> <p>The proposal to shorten the length of closure on Beach Dr. is a practical, common sense solution to a safety issue that our neighborhood has endured for far too long. It is data driven and properly prioritizes safety over popularity. It is consistent with Vision Zero and the county's pedestrian safety goals. I strongly support this proposal and look forward to being able to walk on my street without fear of being hit by a cut through car.</p>
743	<p>I support this change. Under the old plan residents in the Byeforde Knowles Rock Creek Highland neighborhood have been subjected to speeding vehicles using the neighborhood as a bypass to the closure of heavily traveled Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut. I narrowly escaped being hit by a car on at least one occasion and I observed children also being subjected to dangerous situations due to the through traffic under the old plan. Restricting the closure to between Knowles Ave and Cedar Lane provides a lovely, little traveled, section of Beach Dr for pedestrian and bicycle use.</p>

	<p>I am writing to support the Montgomery Parks proposal to make the Open Parkways program permanent with several modifications. In particular, I strongly support the reopening of the .70-mile segment of Beach Dr. from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.</p> <p>This segment of Beach Dr., which is currently closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is parallel to the street where I live, Culver St. The closure of Beach Dr. on weekends and holidays has resulted in the diversion of a significant volume of traffic onto Culver St. and adjacent streets.</p> <p>Culver Street is a narrow and hilly street lacking sidewalks and traffic abatement measures. Recent traffic studies, conducted by MC DOT and MC Parks has demonstrated that there are approximately 1700 to 2000 cars that traverse Culver St. every weekend. This very large and unacceptable volume of traffic has been the source of great consternation for me and my neighbors.</p> <p>Our primary concern has been the health and safety of the children and residents who live on and use Culver Street. We have a special concern for an individual with special needs who lives on this street. The situation is exacerbated as traffic volume increased since Google Maps, Waze and other mobile apps guide users onto Culver St. on weekends and holidays.</p> <p>Historically, this segment was also closed on Fridays until December 2022. Data showed that the traffic volume for the months leading up to December 2022 was so high and dangerous for pedestrians (more than 950 cars in one day on Culver St.), that Parks reopened Beach Drive on Fridays.</p> <p>It is important to note that Culver St. traffic volumes on Fridays decreased by 60% when Beach Dr. was reopened. This clearly shows the correlation between the closures on Beach Drive to excessive spillover traffic onto Culver St. However, Culver St. traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays have continued to grow with volumes now exceeding the 950 cars per day benchmark that prompted the Friday re-opening of Beach Dr.</p> <p>Studies conducted by MCDOT and MC Parks demonstrate that weekend car traffic is steadily increasing on Culver St. while usage of Beach Dr. has decreased. This is not surprising since the pandemic has waned, and people have returned to work.</p> <p>Notably, traffic volumes on Culver St. increased each time the counts were measured with an over 30% increase between January and September of 2023 alone. Simultaneously, MC Parks data show that average weekend usage of Beach Dr. has steadily decreased by 73.5% on Saturdays and 71% on Sundays since 2020 between April 2020 and December 2023.</p> <p>Concerned with the safety of our neighbors, my Citizens Association has been strongly advocating for the last three years that the segment of Beach Dr. from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. be completely reopened to all vehicular traffic. We appreciate the support and guidance of our local elected representatives, notably County Council Members Gabe Albornoz and Kate Stewart.</p> <p>The modification is supported by data and properly prioritizes the safety of county residents over a road closure that produces limited benefit. Beach Dr. has a pedestrian path that can continue to be used – as it has been since the 1970s. The proposal reopening of the .70-mile segment of Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays is consistent with promoting health and protecting the safety of pedestrians and is consistent with the County's Vision Zero and Safe Streets initiative.</p> <p>I strongly urge the Planning Board to pass this proposal from the Department of Parks. Thank you for considering these comments.</p>
744	<p>I'm writing to support the Montgomery Parks proposal to make the Open Parkways program permanent with several modifications; Particularly, I strongly support the reopening of the .70-mile segment of Beach Dr. from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.</p> <p>This segment of Beach Dr., which is currently closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is parallel to the street where I live, Culver Street. The closure of Beach Dr. on weekends and holidays has resulted in the diversion of a significant volume of traffic onto Culver St. and adjacent streets.</p> <p>Culver Street is a narrow and hilly street, lacking sidewalks and traffic abatement measures. Recent traffic studies, conducted by MC DOT and MC Parks has demonstrated that there are approximately 1700 to 2000 cars that traverse Culver St. every weekend. This very large and frankly unacceptable volume of traffic has been the source of great consternation for me and my neighbors.</p> <p>Our primary concern has been the health and safety of the children and residents who live on and use Culver Street. We have a special concern for an individual with special needs who lives on this street. The situation is exacerbated as traffic volume increased since Google Maps, Waze and other mobile apps guide users onto Culver St. on weekends and holidays.</p> <p>Historically, this segment was also closed on Fridays until December 2022. Data showed that the traffic volume for the months leading up to December 2022 was so high and dangerous for pedestrians (more than 950 cars in one day on Culver St.), that Parks reopened Beach Drive on Fridays.</p> <p>It is important to note that Culver St. traffic volumes on Fridays decreased by 60% when Beach Dr. was reopened. This clearly shows the correlation between the closures on Beach Drive to excessive spillover traffic onto Culver St. However, Culver St. traffic volumes on Saturdays and Sundays have continued to grow with volumes now exceeding the 950 cars per day benchmark that prompted the Friday re-opening of Beach Dr.</p> <p>Studies conducted by MCDOT and MC Parks demonstrate that weekend car traffic is steadily increasing on Culver St. while usage of Beach Dr. has decreased. This is not surprising since the pandemic has waned, and people have returned to work.</p> <p>Notably, traffic volumes on Culver St. increased each time the counts were measured with an over 30% increase between January and September of 2023 alone. Simultaneously, MC Parks data show that average weekend usage of Beach Dr. has steadily decreased by 73.5% on Saturdays and 71% on Sundays since 2020 between April 2020 and December 2023.</p> <p>Concerned with the safety of our neighbors, my Citizens Association has been strongly advocating for the last three years that the segment of Beach Dr. from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. be completely reopened to all vehicular traffic. We appreciate the support and guidance of our local elected representatives, notably County Council Members Gabe Albornoz and Kate Stewart.</p> <p>The modification is supported by data and properly prioritizes the safety of county residents over a road closure that produces limited benefit. Beach Dr. has a pedestrian path that can continue to be used – as it has been since the 1970s. The proposal reopening of the .70-mile segment of Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Connecticut Ave. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays is consistent with promoting health and protecting the safety of pedestrians and is consistent with the County's Vision Zero and Safe Streets initiative.</p> <p>I strongly urge the Planning Board to pass this proposal from the Department of Parks. Thank you for considering these comments.</p>
745	<p>Please preserve as many hours and as much parkway as you possibly can for non-motorists. It is such a community-building amenity that is so greatly needed. My 5-yr old child loves to ride his bike there and I love that he can do it without the danger of cars, plus, he has more wiggle room for learning than a shared use path can provide. We don't have sidewalks in many of our neighborhoods. We need more spaces like this—not less.</p>
746	<p>Thank you!</p>
747	<p>I support making the Beach Drive closures permanent. We use Beach Drive on the weekends, and it is much safer without the cars there.</p>
748	<p>Please keep the current closure (2.9 miles) in place! People are using that stretch recreationally to a very high degree on weekends! Keeping it closed will make the Connecticut Ave intersection a lot safer because cars will not be able to cut through along the same route as cyclists.</p>
749	<p>I support the restoration of the original operating hours to include starting at Friday at 9:00 am.</p> <p>I oppose the changes being proposed to section of parkway from Connecticut to Cedar lane for a few reasons. First, having the dedicated safe space to bike on Beach drive on the weekends gives me a place to be healthy and exercise, to be safely separated from cars, and brings me and hundreds of others joy. I usually bike on the sections of Beach drive that include car traffic on my way to the open parkway section, and it can be highly stressful to have cars passing you only a foot or two from your bike. It is always such a relief to finally cross Connecticut and not worry about cars. I just keep hoping that there will be more miles in Montgomery county, not less, where I can enjoy riding my bike on the weekends safely separated from cars. Quite frankly, I think cars would also like me as a bicyclist to not be on "their" roads.</p> <p>In terms of the data looking at cut-through traffic, I don't think the data prove that closing Beach drive caused increased traffic on Culver street. The observations on Fridays before and after the open parkway initiative indicate that the Culver street traffic not necessarily caused by closing Beach drive to cars. Re-opening Beach drive to traffic on Fridays did not "solve" the traffic on Culver street, which means that traffic on Culver street on Fridays was likely higher regardless. Furthermore, the number of cars counted on Culver street on Sundays appear to be similar to the weekdays (not sure from the data presented of the statistical differences or similarities), which supports the possibility that more drivers are driving on Friday and Saturday on Culver street unrelated to the closures of the parkway. In other words, maybe there are just more cars on Culver street on Fridays and Saturdays regardless of Beach drive.</p>

The permanent adoption of COVID-19 use restrictions for Beach Drive will continue to impact the neighborhood that I live in. We have been waiting for the restrictions to be lifted so that traffic can have choices other than cutting through my area of Kensington (to be exact, Saul Road). In addition to traffic pattern changes my elderly mother enjoys when we use Beach Drive to travel by car. When she found out that these restrictions would be permanent, she was disappointed because she does not have the mobility to walk, run, or bike. Before COVID, for years, everyone shared the park and this should not change. I love driving the length of Beach Drive in Kensington and feeling like I'm on a country road, not in the middle of a metro area. This does wonders for my mental health but since the closures, I don't have that opportunity. I have waited patiently for all of the COVID restrictions to be lifted and for everything to return to normal. Keeping these restrictions in place feels like the pandemic is ongoing. It is important to listen to the surrounding neighborhoods instead of catering to a few citizens who pass through this area on occasion. The enjoyment of any public space should be equally available and accessible and limiting access to only those with full mobility is not in the spirit of what a public park (that everyone pays taxes for) is supposed to be. Please DO NOT MAKE THE CHANGE PERMANENT. Respectfully Submitted- M. Bonavia