

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lukacs, Kyle](#); [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: In support of Beach Drive closure
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 9:49:05 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hi Kyle-

I'm sure you're getting tons of hate mail about the Friday closure of Beach Drive, so I thought I'd send a message in support. We especially love the opportunity to go on after school bike rides on Friday straight from KP.

Were I the king of the world I'd maybe re-open the road on Fridays between say November and March, but really what I think would make the closure less of a burden would be if there's a way to increase the length of the left turn arrow from Rockville Pike southbound onto Cedar. That arrow is quite short, doesn't even allow the turn lane to empty. But of course people will always find ways to complain, so maybe that wouldn't even help.

Thanks for your work in the county!

[REDACTED] on Crestwood.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lukacs, Kyle](#)
Cc: [MCP-Chair](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Request to Reopen Beach Drive
Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025 12:10:55 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I live in the Parkwood neighborhood and I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the continued closure of Beach Drive (between Cedar Lane and Knowles) on Fridays as well as over weekends. I am uniquely burdened by this closure because driving aggravates a chronic ankle condition. In short, the more I drive, the more pain I get. I usually limit driving to about 5-10 minute distance from my house to keep the pain manageable. I would be able to access Grosvenor Lane and Tuckerman much more easily if I could access the Rockville Pike by way of Beach at Franklin. I know that having to go an extra 5 minutes out of the way is an inconvenience for most people. For me, it's more serious than that. It makes it more difficult for me to drive my kids to activities on the weekends and for me to drive to the YMCA on Old Georgetown on Fridays.

I hope you will take my unique perspective into consideration and reopen that portion of Beach to vehicle traffic on weekends and Fridays. I grew up in Kensington and used the Beach drive bike trail for biking and walking. I don't understand why the road needs to be closed for people to enjoy those activities.

Please let me know if you need anything else or have questions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
4404 Edgefield Rd., Kensington

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Jason Sartori Chief, Countywide Planning & Policy Division referred me to you
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:26:36 AM

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Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reddie Drive, 14th Floor,
Wheaton, MD 20902

Artie Harris, Chair

Catherine (Assistant). 3914954608

I had a lengthy recent conversation with Jason Sartori who has advised me that you are the MoCo employee I need to speak with who is most informed and responsible for this matter. In the event this is not the case, I need to be advise who is along with their direct work contact information.

The following is a matter that is Very Important to me and because of this **long ago decision made by the Prior** Planning Board (under the leadership of Casey Anderson who's employment was terminated when it was found he was behaving entirely unprofessionally maintaining a liquor cabinet at his Wheaton Office) has been a significant diminishment in my ability to travel to and from my Bethesda home in a safe and efficient way. This situation is no longer tolerable and has to change.

After SIX years of Beach Drive closure for 3-4 consecutive days A WEEK (4 consecutive days when one of the Thirteen Fed Holidays occur) there is no way the Planning Board should be continuing to dictate it is OK to Inconvenience and place Parkwood residents into harm's way by allowing hundreds of drivers who do Not Live In Parkwood to use our residential streets to travel in MoCo. SO much data gathering and discussion on this topic Over and Over during the course of this LONG timespan... while the vast majority of Parkwood residents Are against these Weekly closures,

MANY are Against ANY closure of Beach Drive. Somewhere a compromise was created to ask for Friday closures.

AND, there is another downside to the closures that I've witnessed repeatedly while driving on Beach Dr--Due to the multiday closures in place for SIX Years, on the days of the week that Beach Dr. is open to drivers --the Bicyclists ride In The Middle of the Lane and two to three across. That is Illegal. The Law for Bicyclists is when sharing a road with cars, Bicyclists are to ride to the Far Right side of the lane they are in. I have researched this thoroughly in both MD and MoCo legal resources.

But, when Bicyclists have just come off of multadays of having Beach Drive CLOSED, devoid of cars, and to themselves, Sharing the road with cars is clearly FORGOTTEN or ignored.

Additionally Important and Overlooked: Nothing is preventing bicyclists from using Rock Creek Trail 365 days a year that is PARALLEL to Beach Drive so ANY closure of Beach Drive is a redundant travel option and Entirely excessive and unnecessary.

This recurring debate needs to end in a respectful way returning the Opening of Beach Drive to the drivers of cars who FAR FAR outnumber the number of bicyclists we all see and numbers confirm are bicycling this stretch of Beach Drive.

Further the numbers gathered by Montgomery Parks are not accurate and are inflated due to the counting methodology not taking into account deer, when a person turns around, and other measuring flaws that Inflate and double/triple the counts, due to Montgomery Parks motion detection process of counting. And remember **The section of Beach Drive that goes from Cedar Ln to Connecticut Ave HAS been reopened** so WHY is Parkwood THE section of Beach Drive still being closed? There truly is no good reason for the different Planning Board treatments being afforded to residents from Cedar Ln to Connecticut Ave.

I trust in your reading this and the prior materials and data the Parkwood Resident Assn has provided to this Board you chair you find this information is beyond adequate to see the need for the reopening of Beach Drive from Cedar Lane to Knowles to cars AND to include the opening of Franklin to Grosvenor Lane.

I would appreciate acknowledgement of my email. Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lukacs, Kyle](#); MCP-Chair
Subject: Fw: [Parkwood] Beach Drive and traffic report - Photo of 355 to Cedar traffic
Date: Sunday, June 8, 2025 2:02:32 PM

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Good morning Kyle,

Toward the end of the PRA meeting with Chair Harris on Wednesday, you replied to a question from him that no degradation of intersections had occurred as a result of the detours required when Beach Drive is closed to traffic on Fridays. I'm sharing an email that was sent to the PRA listserve by a resident this weekend after we reported to residents about our meeting. This letter and the accompanying picture makes it clear that your assessment of the intersections certainly doesn't apply to this one. A quick count shows at least 20 cars waiting. Is having to wait 3-5 light cycles to make a turn the norm for a functioning intersection? Thought you should know before you present to the Board on Thursday.

Kira

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED] Parkwood Residents Association Listserve, Montgomery County, MD [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: 'Parkwood Residents Association Listserve, Montgomery County, MD' [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 12:05:48 PM EDT

Subject: RE: [Parkwood] Beach Drive and traffic report - Photo of 355 to Cedar traffic

..... attached is a photo of typical Friday back-ups for those traveling south on Route 355 trying to turn left onto Cedar (typically coming from the Beltway.) I took this picture yesterday (6/7/25.) Look closely, the traffic to turn left actually goes even further than the photo shows. I have been stuck in this Friday back-up several times, and it can take three to five light chance cycles to make it through the intersection. Without access to Beach Drive to Franklin, we go from three ways to get to our community from the beltway (via Strathmore, Beach, and Cedar) to two heavily trafficked routes.

[REDACTED] on Saul



From: [REDACTED]
To: [MCP-Chair; Branda, Ilana](#)
Subject: Submission for Beach Drive hearing June 12
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:40:29 AM
Attachments: [Followup letter to Harris v2.docx](#)
[Followup letter to Harris v2.pdf](#)

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To the Planning Board members,
Last June when the Board voted to close Beach Drive to traffic on Fridays, it did so with the promise to review that decision after a year since there was strong opposition from residents of neighborhoods that were directly impacted. The Parkwood Residents Association has submitted a report detailing the effect of the closure on Parkwood , and presented the results to the Chair on June 4th. These comments are being added for your consideration.

TO: Artie Harris, Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board
FR: Kira Lueders, President and Jeff Griffith, Vice President, Parkwood Residents Association

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the Parkwood community's request to open Beach Drive on Fridays.

We do understand and appreciate the need for an open process to ensure that all points of view can be considered. Montgomery County is a leader in transparency.

However, we would like to make the following points regarding the Board's evaluation of public input from others.

1. We do not think the process should be a simple referendum in which the decision is made based primarily on the number of votes tallied for a particular point of view. The concerns of those who are most directly affected, especially negatively affected by the decision should weigh most heavily as the Board considers its options.
2. If you ask people whose lives are not disrupted by a decision, as the lives of the residents of Parkwood are, then it is easy to say yes, I vote for closing Beach Drive. It has no impact on them other than to offer an additional route, albeit a short one of just 2 miles, on which they can bike or walk when they choose.
3. But the analysis shows that most who vote to close Beach do not choose to use it on Fridays. The numbers of bikers, runners, and walkers are very low, compared to those who must get to work every day, drop off kids at school, and return home in the evening, yet must travel on longer more congested routes on Fridays. It is easy to vote yes to closure when there are no personal consequences.
4. The extra miles traveled by these residents surely must contribute to pollution. How should we compare that to the extra two miles that bikers, who make up 79% of the users on Friday, can travel?
5. We urge you not to think of the number of *cars* that typically use Beach Drive but rather think of the hundreds of *people* who normally use it to go about their daily lives, compared to the few dozen who may bike on it when the weather is fair.
6. Parkwood residents love and use the park every day, not just on weekends. But they do not love being shut out of it so a few can bike or walk.
7. Of course the Board must consider numbers, but it must weigh those numbers based on the impact on people.

For the benefit of the other members of the Board who were not at our meeting on June 4, here are the links to the [slides](#) and [accompanying text](#) summarizing the information presented at the meeting. [The full report is here.](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Photo of traffic on Route 355 turning on Cedar Avenue due to the Friday Beach Drive closures
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 10:27:10 PM

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Dear Planning Board Chair and Members,

Chairperson: Please distribute this email to the Planning Board Members. We understand you will be soon considering a proposal from my Parkwood community in Kensington to keep Beach Drive open on Fridays again between Cedar Avenue and Knowles Avenue. We agree with this request and submit the attached photo of typical Friday back-ups for those traveling south on Route 355 trying to turn left onto Cedar (typically coming from the Beltway.) I took this picture on June 6, 2025. Look closely, the traffic to turn left actually goes even further than the photo shows. We, as many in our community, have been stuck in this Friday back-up numerous times, and it can take three to five light change cycles to make it through the intersection. Without access to Beach Drive from Route 355 North to Franklin Street, we go from having three ways to get to our community from the beltway (via Strathmore, Beach, and Cedar) to two heavily trafficked routes. The back-ups on eastbound Strathmore are also getting worse on Fridays. We literally cannot get back to our neighborhood on Fridays. Please, please consider opening Beach drive back up on Fridays. Very few bikers take advantage of this closed portion of Beach Drive on Fridays as they work during the day too. Thank you.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED] (Members of the Parkwood Residents Association)
4606 Saul Road
Kensington, MD 20895
wzwack@aol.com



From: [MCP-Chair](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: FW: Beach Drive and Parkwood
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 3:29:44 PM

From: Stewart's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Stewart@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 3:50 PM
To: Harris, Artie <Artie.Harris@mncppc-mc.org>
Cc: Branda, Ilana <Ilana.Branda@mncppc-mc.org>
Subject: Beach Drive and Parkwood

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Dear Chair Harris,

Thank you for your recent meeting with residents of the Parkwood community in District 4 regarding the Beach Drive Open Parkways program on Fridays, and for allowing my staff person Andrew Gelman to attend to take notes.

I understand that at the Thursday 6/12 board meeting, the Board will hear from Parks staff on traffic data collected over the past year in the Parkwood area.

I appreciate the Board's continued engagement with the community so residents see our local government agencies listening and responding when they raise concerns. In that vein, I wanted to take a moment to highlight some longstanding mobility and traffic challenges in the area including substantial cut through traffic. These challenges pre-date the Open Parkways program, and unfortunately, remain unresolved despite efforts by our office and other officials representing the area. These challenges have previously stemmed from two intersections: MD547 Knowles Ave and Summit Ave, and MD547 Knowles Ave and MD185 Connecticut Ave, which are both controlled by the State Highway Administration (SHA). I request that as the Board considers the Open Parkways program in this area that you also consider joining us in seeking action from SHA to improve how these two intersections function for all users.

We appreciate your work and consideration.

Council President Kate Stewart



For more helpful Cybersecurity Resources, visit:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cybersecurity>

**Fw: June 13, 2025 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda Item 6 on Beach Drive closure**

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 6/11/2025 11:44 PM
To [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Harris,

The Parks Department report to be presented on the impacts of closing Beach Drive on Fridays is INCORRECT. The report states that it accounts for the traffic after the return to work of NIH workers. It does NOT. Traffic measurements taken March 27 and 28, 2025 were BEFORE NIH staff returned to the office, which was on March 31, 2025. Any traffic counts comparing Thursday (when Beach Drive is open) to Friday (Beach Drive is closed) do not account for the return to work at NIH unless they are after March 31, 2025.

The original return to work was scheduled for earlier in March, but was postponed to March 31 by NIH. This involves about 1500 people returning from full telework and over 8000 people returning from partial telework. My source is Dana Talesnik, Chief of Staff News and Public Inquiries Branch in the Office of Communications and Public Inquiries at NIH, and I have emails documenting this return to work date.

I would have thought that the Parks Department would have kept abreast of the NIH return to work schedule, as it is very important to the Beach Drive closure impact. I believe that no decisions should be made on permanently closing the Cedar to Knowles section of Beach Drive on Fridays without data correctly reflecting the post April 1, 2025 Beach Drive weekday usage that is diverted on Fridays.

I also feel that there is much evidence and public input that has not been heard by the Board because public testimony has not been allowed and should be.

[REDACTED]
10246 Parkwood Drive
Kensington, MD 20895
[REDACTED]