



The Town of Washington Grove
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Eli Glazier
Acting Transportation Planning Supervisor
Countywide Planning and Policy Division
Montgomery County Planning Department

January 21, 2025

RE: Washington Grove Connector Mandatory Referral

Dear Eli,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you some comments. As you are aware, we have been working with MCDOT for about 5 years to make the Washington Grove Connector (WGC) a reality. The Mandatory Referral plan you are presenting to the Planning Board has been developed in detail over the last 18 months with our input to Ms. Kapusnick. It very much reflects most of the preferences and inputs from the Town leadership and residents.

In addition to our unqualified support for moving ahead with this plan, here is our perspective on a number of aspects of the proposal:

- ***We strongly support this alignment of the Washington Grove Connector.***
The planned alignment for the WGC was one of several we suggested to the engineers and MCDOT team and has our strong support. It is the most sensitive to the environment, and the least costly to construct, and is consistent with the Planning Board's direction at its last review that completing the WGC should be a priority and independent of uncertain future road development.
- ***Comment on the entrance of the Connector to Brown Street in Washington Grove.***
The tight 90° turn where the WGC enters the Brown Street cul-de-sac is a compromise between challenges posed by the terrain, tree impacts, appearance and safety. We request that you examine the safety of this entry to perhaps lessen the tightness of the turn.
- ***Additional tree landscaping along the WGC.***
We appreciate the details of the landscape plan with the intent of creating a treed border along the pathway. However, there seem to remain several gaps where additional trees could be placed, and details of the existing trees and the selection of new trees could benefit from review, which we can help with.
- ***We suggest the "short" proposed connection to Picea Court is sufficient.***
We favor the short alternative for this small connecting pathway (diagram C206), which could be further shortened to directly connect to a curb cut on Picea Court. Adding the longer extension (shown on diagram C205) at extra cost to create an entry at a road intersection that sees very little vehicular use will be of little benefit and also impact several existing trees.
- ***Staging of the construction of the WGC from Crabbs Branch Way.***
Since Brown Street is a residential area, we request that construction time at this end be minimized, and that construction be staged from Crabbs Branch Way.

Sincerely,

John G. Compton
Mayor, Washington Grove