

**TESTIMONY OF GREATER FARMLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SIDEWALK APPLICATION #630
FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

I am Ed Rich, the President of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (“GFCA”), which represents over 3,000 residents in the Old Farm, Tilden Woods, Hickory Woods, and Walnut Woods neighborhoods.

The GFCA supports the Montgomery County Department of Transportation’s (“MCDOT”) recommendation to construct a sidewalk segment on the west side of Farmland Drive between Old Stage Road and Race Horse Lane.

In our continuing effort to improve the safety of our resident walkers and bikers, on August 15, 2018, the GFCA submitted a formal request to the Sidewalk Division of MCDOT to consider construction of this sidewalk segment.

As you know, when the community was formed in the early to mid 1960s, sidewalks were constructed on our primary streets, in most cases, on both sides of the street. For some reason, unlike our other primary streets, a sidewalk was only constructed on one side of that portion of Farmland Drive that is considered a primary street and no sidewalk was constructed between Old Stage Road and Race Horse Lane. Farmland Drive is a main route to and from Farmland Elementary School and is heavily utilized each school day by Farmland students walking or biking to and from school, as well as by school buses and parents or caregivers driving students to and from Farmland. Moreover, even during non-school hours, Farmland Drive is heavily utilized by walkers and bikers as well as vehicles.

Because this segment does not contain a sidewalk, walkers and bikers typically walk in the street and are forced into the middle of the street due to parked vehicles, creating a very real conflict between vehicular and pedestrian traffic on a stretch of road that has two major curves, a major grade change and no stop signs. Because of the curves, site lines for drivers are compromised, creating the real possibility of a serious injury due to walkers and bikers using the road in the absence of a sidewalk. This segment needs a sidewalk to create a safe passageway to and from Farmland Elementary School and for the safety of our community.

We join with the Farmland Elementary School PTA and the Farmland Elementary School Principal in supporting construction of this missing sidewalk segment and urge you to move forward for the safety of our residents and our students.
