

CALL TO ACTION:
Tell Your State and County Elected Officials
MD Department of Transportation Must Fund
the Georgia Ave Improvements (Alternative 5B) in FY 2019

Issue One: *Georgia Ave is Dangerous*

Motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists who use the MD 97 Montgomery Hills Corridor put themselves at risk. The existing roadway design and sidewalk conditions create an automobile-dominated environment hostile to walking, biking, or accessing public transit.

Even car travel is impeded by the roadway's poor design, numerous commercial access points, high traffic volumes, prohibited left turns during peak hours, confusing signage, and reversible lanes.

Since 2015 there have been **243 crashes** between 16th Street and the Beltway and **96 people were hurt**. Rear-end, sideswipe, and left-turn crashes occur at **significantly higher rates** than the statewide average for those types of crashes on similar roadways.

Issue Two: *Georgia Ave's Design Impedes Retail and Commercial Activity*

Poor accessibility to local business is the cause of economic stagnation and in some cases, decline, in the Montgomery Hills retail district. Minimal commercial activity along the corridor due to access issues results in less property upkeep by landlords; below market rents; increased vacancies and few fresh opportunities for economic growth. No funding for roadway improvements over the past two decades -- despite neighborhood support for these initiatives -- discourages new businesses from locating in Montgomery Hills.

Unless customers can walk, bike, or easily access public transit to get to and between the stores and restaurants, prospective business operators are unlikely to open shop in Montgomery Hills. This is a tremendous waste of a neighborhood with so much promise -- the area is uniquely situated between two Red Line Metro Stations (Silver Spring and Forest Glen), near two future Purple Line Stations (Woodside and Lyttonsville), close to the Capital Crescent Trail, and multiple bus routes.

The solution: #FixGeorgiaAve by funding SHA Alternative 5B NOW!

Improvements to Georgia Ave have been discussed and studied for over 18 years! Alternative 5B, developed by the Maryland State Highway Administration, will improve safety, increase pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, increase transit accessibility, create a sense of place for the community, help small businesses thrive and improve traffic conditions -- and boost the corridor's aesthetics. Alternative 5B has widespread support from the six surrounding neighborhoods, local businesses, and local religious and community organizations.

Four Ways to Improve Georgia Ave

1. **Tell your elected officials** today or by email that you want Georgia Ave improvements funded.
2. **Send a letter** to MD Secretary Rahn to request FY2019 funding for the Georgia Ave improvements (letters available at friendsofforestglen.org).
3. **Attend the October 11th** Maryland DOT Consolidated Transportation Program meeting at **7 pm** at the Montgomery County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave, Rockville, to support funding.
4. Follow us at friendsofforestglen.org to stay updated on progress and future ways to get involved.