

# Safety on Dale Drive

**Immediately address safety and traffic issues on Dale Drive to ensure safety of all people using Dale Drive, especially pedestrians and bicyclists.**

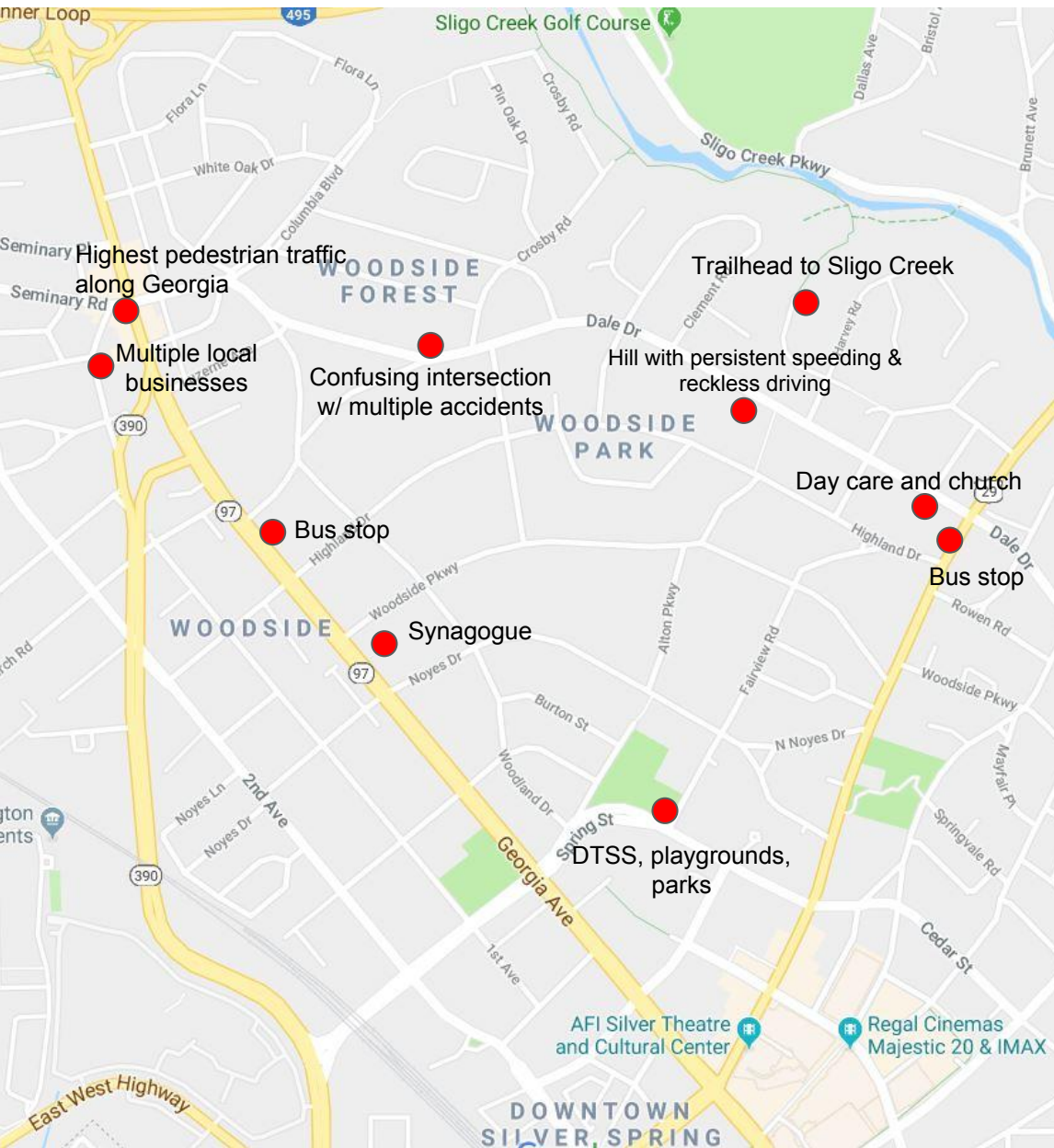


Skid marks of car that drove onto resident's lawn on Dale and Grace Church. Occurred in Dec 2017.



Pedestrian safety sign on side of road hit by car. Nov 2017.

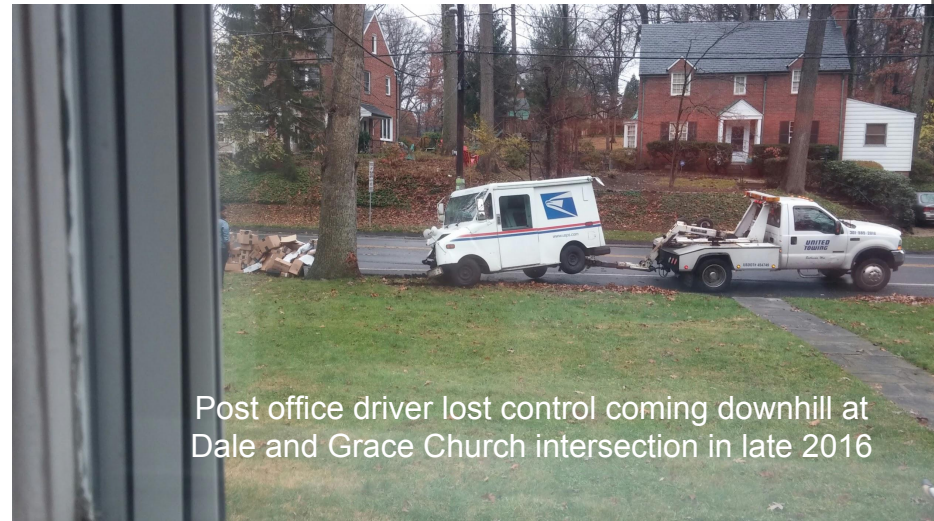
# Map of Dale Drive



- School bus stops along entire road
- Less than a mile from DTSS
- Impassable shoulder
- No sidewalk
- No bike lane
- Blind corners and hills
- A few blocks from Sligo Creek Park & playgrounds
- Nearly 1300 homes in Woodside communities without safe access on Dale
- Dale & Georgia Ave intersection has highest ped traffic of all intersections in Montgomery Hills
- MoCo deems Dale inappropriate for most bicyclists and an **“unacceptable pedestrian link”**
- Cannot safely access metro stations or buses

# The Problem

- Dale Drive is a completely residential and dangerous for everyone who uses the road - pedestrians especially at risk
- Lack of adequate infrastructure and signage.
  - MCDOT traffic calming is helping, but has not solved the problem completely.
- Road is winding and hilly with no sidewalks, no stop signs, no bike path
- Shoulder is very narrow, nonexistent and impassable in some sections
- Cars pose a **serious, persistent** danger to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing or traveling along Dale.
  - Speeding well beyond the posted 30 mph limit. Avg speed is nearly 40mph.
  - Frequent reckless driving, including cars passing into oncoming traffic
  - Cars rarely yield for pedestrians in crosswalks.



# You Can't Ignore the Data

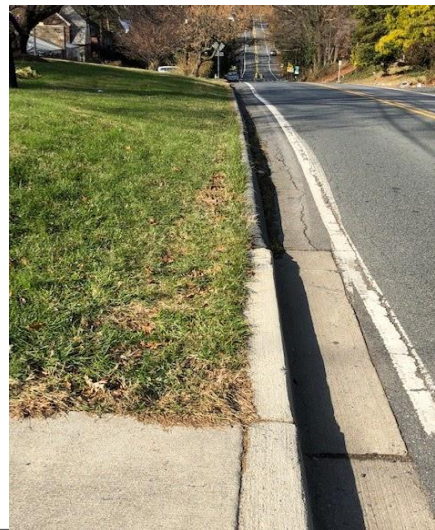
- 11 crashes on Dale in 2017; Doesn't include near misses, unreported crashes
- **Pedestrian Leonard Hardis was hit and killed** during his Sunday morning walk.
- Most crashes involve cars hitting fixed objects on the side of the road (signs, parked cars) - highest risk crash type for pedestrians & bicyclists.
  - These were **serious crashes**- airbags deployed, cars towed, people injured
- Only a few speeding citations issued in 2017
- Mobile speed cameras rarely deployed
- When tickets were given in past years, cars going over 50 mph and passing into oncoming traffic
- Between March 2008 and November 2009, 1,209 speeding citations were issued. 87 tickets were issued in one day alone.



*Car crashes into large truck in Alton Parkway **crosswalk** during morning commute hours . Nov 2017*

# Safety and Well-Being of Residents

- Residents frequently walk or bike to surrounding churches, parks, playgrounds, a synagogue, daycare, multiple local businesses, metro, and DTSS
  - They cannot access these community institutions safely.
- Children waiting along Dale to board school buses are in danger.
- Quality of life is reduced when residents fear for their safety and do not take advantage of nearby community amenities.
- Residents forced to use their cars for local, walkable trips contributing to traffic volume, congestion and negative environmental impacts.





**Nowhere safe to walk, run, or bike.**

**Nowhere to push a stroller.**

**No access for people with disabilities.**



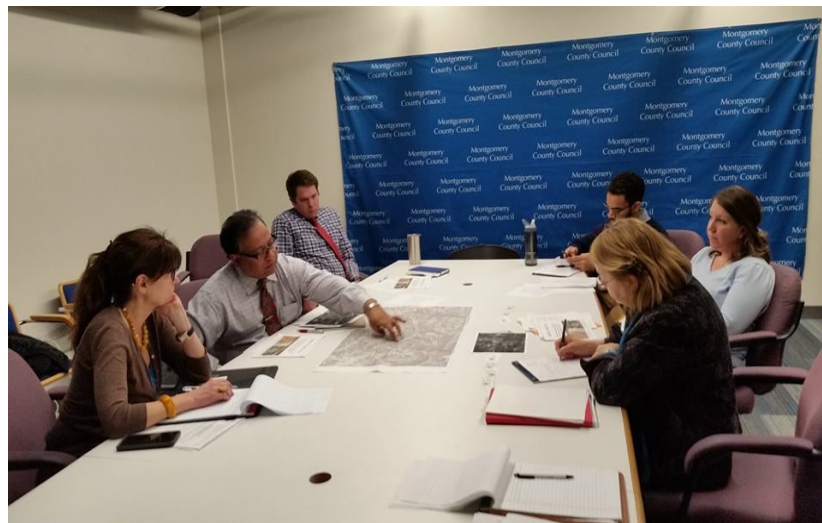
**Nowhere safe for children to wait for school buses.**



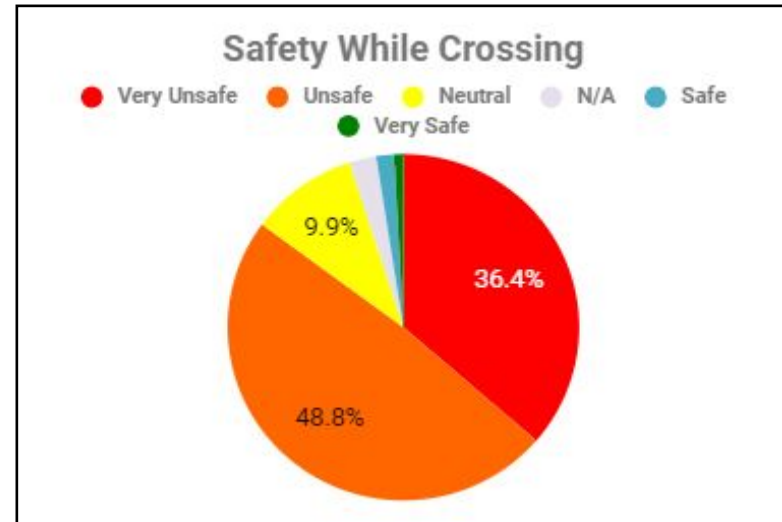
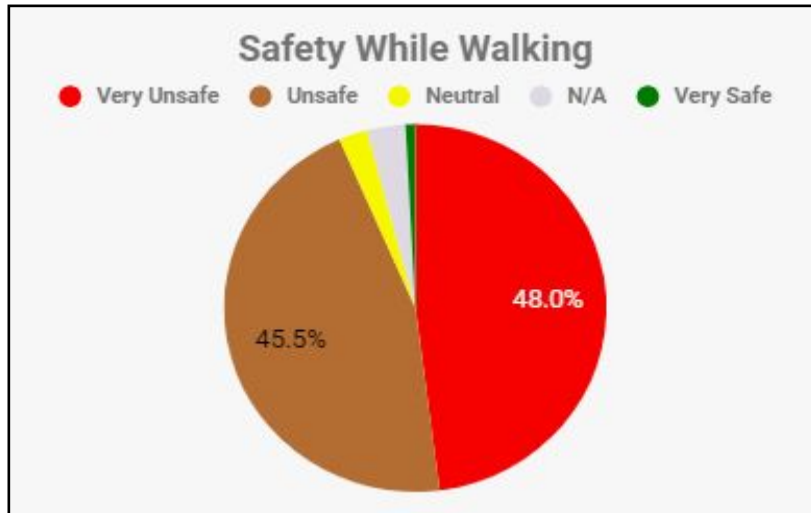
# Documented History of Past Efforts

***Residents have been asking the County to address safety and traffic issues on Dale Drive for over twenty years. While some measures have been implemented, they are not adequate to ensure safety of all people using the road.***

- In 2008, residents worked with MCPD to conduct study and get mobile speed cameras.
- This problem has been documented in WPCA newsletters for years.
- Formal requests sent to County officials dating back to 2008
- Requested County support numerous times (at least 15 separate times in 2017)
- Sent history compilation as attachment when reached out to County because at first, we were being ignored.
- We keep a detailed account of all resident requests and experiences on the road



# Resident Survey and Petition



- **Over 98% of people surveyed said they witness speeding and reckless driving very often or often.**
- **Nearly everyone feels unsafe walking, biking and crossing Dale Dr.**
- **Woodside Park Civic Assoc. survey found 72% respondents were concerned about pedestrian safety and 75% identified speeding cars as a major concern.**
- **Nearly 200 residents signed our petition.**



# Resident Testimonials: In Their Own Words

- I **live with a great deal of fear** about the cars speeding and careening down the hills on Dale Drive
- We have a double stroller and having to race it across Dale or walking 1 block along Dale to get to streets that link to Sligo creek park is **terrifying**.
- To get to Sligo Creek Trail, I have to cross Dale. I also cross it to get to Sniders. Every time, I am **afraid for my safety** — bringing my baby is even worse.
- I do not feel safe walking in front of my own house. I **take a risk each time** I leave my driveway with my child. We have to dart out into the road to get around parked cars and each time I wonder if we'll be hit by a passing car.
- I am **terrified** because cars speed down Dale and there are no sidewalks or other protections for pedestrians.
- I **feel so unsafe** riding a bike on Dale that I will get off and walk my bike for that section of the trip.
- I am **so afraid** to cross Dale with my kids.
- Right now **we take our lives in our hands** to get to the Sligo Creek trail on our bikes or to get to any activities in downtown Silver Spring.
- I have **grave concerns** about ever letting my child play in our front yard.

# Mobilize Residents & Get Political Support

- Formed the Dale Drive Safety Coalition
- Created a [Facebook group](#) so residents can stay updated on progress, respond to action alerts, & share experiences. Over 200 members.
- Nearly 200 residents have signed the [Petition to Ensure the Safety of All People Using Dale Drive](#) urging the County to immediately reduce the danger on the road
- Active on Twitter @DaleDriveSafety. Over 10,000 impressions on Twitter.
- Quarterly updates to hundreds who signed up
- Testify at relevant Council and Planning Board hearings. Over 50 residents submitted written testimony to Council & Planning Board
- Organized the [Dale Drive Safety Walk](#) attended by over 100 people including almost all elected officials and candidates running for office as well as key County staff.
- Secured written statements of support from almost all relevant County elected officials
- Secured official requests from impacted civic associations (WPCA, WFCA, SOECA)



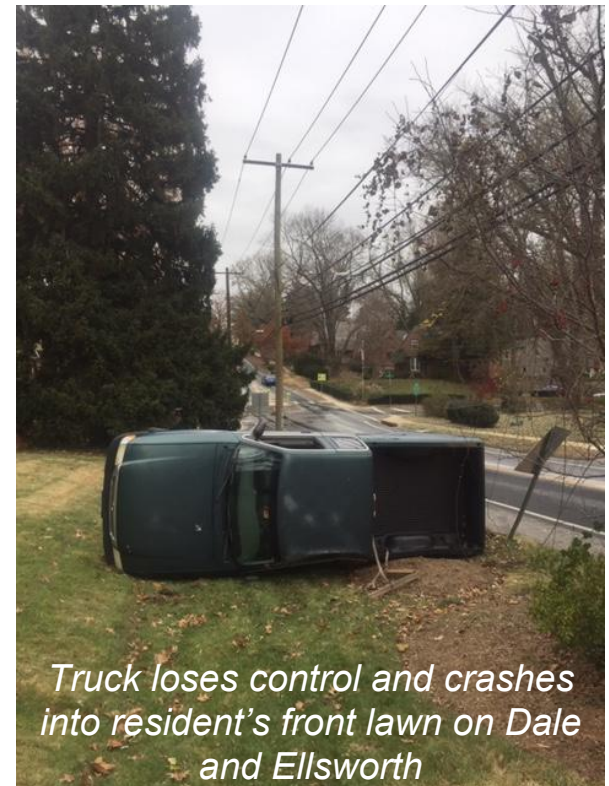
# Be Specific. Ground requests in County policy.

## Our Request to the County:

- Implement a comprehensive plan that results in a Dale becoming a “complete street” and leads to:
  1. Reduction of traffic speeds
  2. Increased safety for pedestrians crossing Dale Drive
  3. Increased safety of pedestrians and bicyclists along Dale Drive
  4. Increased safety of motorists, including residents pulling in and out of their driveways
- While the plan is being developed, implement common-sense solutions immediately.

**Vision Zero commitment & Safe Routes to School goals not being met on Dale Dr.**

**Tie to Master and Sector Plans if possible. (We advocated that Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan and Bike Master Plan include Dale Dr recs)**



*Truck loses control and crashes into resident's front lawn on Dale and Ellsworth*

# **Insist on Immediate Action, Not Just Studies.**

## **Our Initial Asks for Immediate Interventions:**

The County should implement short-term solutions to immediately alleviate safety risks while the comprehensive plan is developed. These should include (but are not limited to):

1. Construct pedestrian refuge islands and fully protect each crosswalk (enhanced stop lines, HAWK or Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, state law ped x-ing signs, etc.)
2. Install temporary rubber barriers along the white lines - in the most dangerous areas - to protect pedestrians.
3. Build curb extensions, bulb outs and other traffic calming measures that can be quickly installed.
4. Post additional photo enforced signs
5. Frequently deploy DOT's Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer units
6. Regularly deploy speed cameras in accordance with the [List of Designated Speed Camera Corridors & Speed Camera Locations](#)
7. Support the update the Master Plan to accurately classify Dale as a minor arterial
8. Make the shoulders useable (repave, clear natural overgrowth/debris, repaint)
9. Install plastic reflecting poles & trapezoidal reflecting delineators along shoulder
10. Paint speed limits and warnings about upcoming curves on the road

# Our Long Term Request: Make Dale a “Complete Street”

- **Begin study of long term solutions no later than Sept 2018. ✓**
  - **Share timeline and process with residents so they can monitor progress and ensure accountability. ✓**
  - **Conduct community walks with residents and collect their qualitative data. ✓**
- **Include Dale in MC’s Bike Master Plan to reduce bike stress tolerance level (Dale is currently *moderate high*) ✓**
- **Include funding to implement study recs in next year’s MCDOT CIP request**
- **Lower the speed limit to 25mph**
  - **Speed limit on Dale is not specified in Master Plan so it is permitted to reduce it**
- **Increase enforcement of all existing traffic laws through frequent and ongoing deployment of mobile cameras, police dept messaging unit, and police presence.**
- **Reclassify Dale as a minor arterial road to more accurately reflect its purpose and characteristics. ✓**

# Recent Progress

- MCDOT currently installing three pedestrian islands, new signage, bump outs and Qwick Kurbs, repainting, and shoulder repairs
- MCPD temporarily deployed mobile messaging unit and mobile speed cameras
- Planning Dept proposed and Council approved reclassifying Dale Drive as a minor arterial (from arterial) road.
- MCDOT launched facility planning study on Dale Drive Pedestrian Safety.
  - MCDOT survey shows overwhelming support for sidewalks
  - Recommendations will go to Council in Summer 2019
- **UP NEXT - Funding and installation of MCDOT's recommendations!!**



# MCDOT Survey results

*We asked MCDOT to conduct their own impartial survey as part of their Pedestrian Facility Planning Study*

- Nearly 400 respondents (79 people who live on Dale)
- 74% said that sidewalks were the most important for Dale Dr.
- Over 71% said they'd walk on Dale several times a week if there was a sidewalk (to the park, DTSS, church, and more!)
- 83% agree or strongly agree that Dale needs a sidewalk (78% of those who live on Dale)
- 69% agree or strongly agree that Dale needs a bike lane



# Our Approach & Activities in Summary

- Created a [Facebook group](#) and actively recruited residents to join to stay updated on progress, respond to action alerts, and share experiences
- Created @DaleDriveSafety on Twitter to share photos and content and activate network with action items
- Developed an [overview presentation](#) outlining all key issues, data from crash portal and asks
- Send quarterly newsletter/updates like [this one](#)
- Created a contact list of everyone on and near Dale updating it as we got contact info. Added all County contacts (dept staff, elected officials, etc.)
- Created this [petition](#) to collect signatures, contact info and testimonials, as well as corresponding survey questions to collect data. Created [graphics to show data](#) from survey results. Periodically sent updates to Councilmembers with updated petition numbers.
- [Testified at Council CIP hearing](#)
- Create action alerts with email templates and instructions for sending written testimony and input during key opportunities (i.e. in support of Dale becoming a minor arterial road)
- Created an [FAQ](#) doc to help explain what it meant for the road to become a minor arterial
- Compiled [resident testimonials](#) organized by different areas of concern (school children safety; speeding; ability to access local institutions and parks, etc.)
- Organized the [Dale Drive Safety Walk](#) attended by over 100 people including almost all elected officials and candidates running for office as well as key County staff. From the Walk, gathered [written statements](#) of support from each candidate.
- Create [list of 'asks'](#) that we want implemented on Dale.
- Generating local press on the issue from [Source of the Spring](#), [WTOP](#), [Bethesda Beat](#), etc.
- Use local listserves and engage supportive orgs like ACT, Coalition for Smart Growth, WABA, PrezCo, etc. for advice and support.



# MCDOT Shares Preliminary Recs Tomorrow Night!

Feb. 12th, 7pm at Silver Spring International middle Schools



## Dale Drive Pedestrian Facility Improvements Project Facility Planning Study

MARC ELRICH  
Montgomery County Executive

AL R. ROSHDIEH  
Director, Department of Transportation

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For alternative formats of  
this postcard, contact the  
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Engineering at:  
240.777.7220 (voice)  
TTY users call MD relay

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) invites you to attend a public workshop to learn about the Dale Drive Pedestrian Facility Improvement Project — Facility Planning Study. The limits of this project are from Georgia Avenue (MD 97) to Colesville Road (US 29). This study will evaluate long-term pedestrian facility improvements on Dale Drive, such as concrete sidewalk, shared use path, and various traffic safety measures. This phase of the project will result in the development of the preliminary (35%) design. There is no funding scheduled for final design and construction at this time.

At this upcoming public workshop, the project team will present several preliminary concepts and the impacts, as well as the final survey results from the community survey ended in November. We will also collect additional feedback from the community, discuss concerns and answer any questions from the public regarding this project. We encourage you to attend, share your concerns, and provide any suggestions that may better reflect your community's needs for safer pedestrian and bicycle use.

Community members are also welcomed to provide comments and feedback after the public workshop and throughout this project. Should you have questions or comments regarding this project at any point, please contact the project manager.

### Dale Drive Pedestrian Facility Improvements Public Workshop

**Tuesday, February 12, 2019**

**7:00PM - 9:00PM**

### Silver Spring International Middle School

313 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Project Manager:**  
**Angel Cheng, P.E.**

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For latest project updates, please visit the project website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/dadedr/index.html>



**Thank You!**

**Corinne Hart  
Co-Chair, Dale Drive Safety Coalition & President, WPCA**

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**Twitter: [@DaleDriveSafety](https://twitter.com/DaleDriveSafety)**