

# Guilford Road, Gerwig Lane, and Patuxent Woods Drive Public Meeting

Held Virtually on November 10, 2021

8 members of the public attended

Q: Am I reading the map correctly that this only covers Guilford from Murray Hill to Gerwig? Are there plans to address Guilford to the East, toward Vollmerhausen?

- *Yes, this project only covers Guilford Road from Murray Hill Road to Gerwig Road because the current resurfacing effort is only occurring on that segment. Road resurfacing depends on poor conditions on the road. The other portion - Guilford Road to the east - will be resurfaced at some point in the future when the pavement conditions deteriorate, but there are no plans currently.*

Q: What are the proposed road markings for the Berger Road Gerwig crossroads?

- *No changes on Berger Road are being considered, but we are proposing bike lanes on Gerwig approaching the intersection. Typically we do not include bike lanes markings in the intersections.*

Q: Will there be space for pedestrians on these roads? I sometimes walk on these roads.

- *Most of these roads do not have sidewalks. Walking on the roadway in bike lanes is allowed, especially when no sidewalks are available for pedestrians.*

Q: Is there any thought to connect the Gerwig bike lane to the one on Minstrel Way?

- *The connection to the northern segment of Minstrel Way that already has bike lanes can come when the remaining segment of Minstrel Way is being resurfaced. We try and make as many connections as possible.*

Q: Any opportunity to continue with bike lanes onto Minstrel Way towards Snowden? With the newly paved road there associated with Royal Farms can we paint that new section as well?

- *If it is a marking change that can be made without resurfacing, sometimes short sections can be accommodated. The challenge is when lane markings need to be changed, but if lane markings can just be added, we can look into that possibility.*

Q: I think this looks great and pretty straight forward. Will There be a smooth transition between the shared use pathway on broken land to the Patuxent Woods Dr bike lane?

- *Yes, there will be a seamless connection between the shared use pathway to the bike lanes on Patuxent Woods Drive. On Patuxent Woods Drive, the brown lines (on map) indicate existing pathways. These extend to Lake Elkhorn and Patuxent Branch Trail down to Savage. Another connection – to the south – is to the pathway by Old Guilford Road/Guilford Road and the historic bridge over the creek.*

Q: Will there be any specific bike facilities at the crossing at the roadway that passes right next to the Patuxent Branch Trail?

- *We were not planning on a crossing at that location. If there were sidewalks at that location, we would consider it, but typically the County does not consider it for locations without sidewalks.*

Q: Will the bike lanes be continuous or chopped up like the lanes on Gorman?

- *They will be continuous. Also, there will be additional improvements at Snowden River Parking and Broken Land Parkway,*

*including a short addition of sidewalk and a crossing that will facilitate travel in the area. According to the Department of Public Works (DPW) it is project that is a couple of years away.*

Q: Are separated (with a curb or the like) bike lanes ever on the table, or just paint?

- *These are proposed as just paint. We are starting projects in Howard County that include more features. You can include buffering, flex posts, and other features. Oakland Mills Road currently has a project that will include flex posts. It is the first of its kind in Howard County. It is good for safety but provides challenges for maintenance (For more information, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/transportation/oakland-mills-road>).*

Comment: Berger is the only way to connect to Lake Elkhorn trails, so bike lane on Berger would make sense. Just a thought.

- *We are making note of these comments. Thank you.*

Comment: Many trucks park on Gerwig. How will you keep the bike lanes free from trucks?

- *We are hopeful that by providing parking on one side and bike lanes on the other, it will be less likely for trucks to park in the bike lanes. It is illegal to park in a bike lane. Plus since bike lanes are narrower than travel lanes, it would mean that trucks would stick out into the flow of traffic and therefore unsafe as well as illegal. Signage will also help. Ticketing as an enforcement measure could be used, but hopefully that will not be necessary.*

Q: Will the railroad crossings be resurfaced and made flat?

- *We will ask DPW. We don't believe they have plans to make changes there, but we will ask.*

Comment: I would recommend considering a four way stop at Berger Rd and Gerwig Ln given speeds, volumes, and sightlines. Would be difficult for bicyclists to cross Berger from a full stop with current configuration.

Q: Can you add large stop sign markings at the Berger Gerwig crossroad. Consider four way stop.

- *We will look at that with DPW. It is a two-way stop now. DPW requires certain thresholds of traffic volumes before a configuration will be changed, but we will request DPW to look at it.*
- *We will look at that with DPW Usually there is a threshold for volumes, but we will ask them to investigate.*

Q: There is usually a lot of broken glass on Guilford Road under the bridge. Are there plans to keep that part of the bike lane clear of broken glass?

Q: How will trash on the Guilford road under the bridge for 32 be handled? There is a lot of trash there typically.

Q: Are bike lanes regularly cleared of gravel, trash, branches, etc. or will they collect all of that from the road?

- *The roads get swept periodically. There are some County cleaning programs targeting areas near bus stops. Adopt a road programs are helpful also. Curbed roads tend to retain the debris more than non-curbed roads. Locations without curbs tend not to have as many problems with debris, because it tends to fall off to the side of the road. (In addition, "Tell HoCo" – app or website, <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/tell-hoco> - can be used to communicate to the County about locations needing clearing from debris, glass, etc.)*

Comment: Thank you. Appreciate the work you and the team are doing on these projects. Also, these WebEx meetings are great!

- *Once we have the final plans, we will update you on the final marking plans as well provide a summary of the questions and answers raised tonight. Please keep an eye on the project webpage, <https://bikehoward.com/>. We will also communicate with those via email who have attended tonight's meeting or expressed an interest in the project.*

Q: A lot of traffic comes from Minstrel Way, this was opened up to the industrial park without consulting the business and a traffic study. Could you work with Public Works to consider closing for through traffic or closing it period?

- *We will bring this to the attention of DPW, who manages requests of this kind.*

*End of meeting*