



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 6, 2019 Agenda Item 3

### **Work Session:**

Discussion of Resolution Amending Resolution 2018-63 to Clarify that No Change in the Width of the Fenton Street Right of Way is Needed by the City of Takoma Park

### **Recommended Council Action**

Consider the Resolution

### **Context with Key Issues**

Montgomery College has developed plans for the new Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus on Fenton Street, at the current site of Falcon Hall and the Science South building. The College presented the plans in November, following a four-month design charrette process with students, faculty, and the community. On December 5, 2018, Council passed Resolution 2018-63, Resolution Regarding Montgomery College Math and Science Building, approving the Mandatory Referral application as proposed with specified provisions.

In County staff's review of the Montgomery College expansion as part of the Mandatory referral process, it was noted that the 2000 Takoma Park Master Plan classifies Fenton Street as an arterial roadway, with an 80' of right of way and two travel lanes (Table 6). Due to this classification, County staff suggested the City may wish to have 15' of additional right of way dedicated on Fenton Street to obtain a width closer to that outlined in the Master Plan. It is estimated that the portion of Fenton Street in question currently has a width of approximately 26'. A 15' dedication would move the line into the College's current parking lot by Falcon Hall, but remains far short of an 80' width or a 70' width for a road classified as a minor arterial.

The Takoma Park Master Plan (2000) recommends providing streetscaping and sidewalks on Fenton Street as well as accommodating the Metropolitan Branch Trail. As Fenton Street now has sidewalk on the College side and the Metropolitan Branch Trail, an off-street bike and pedestrian path, on the other side, City staff has not identified a need for additional road, bicycle or pedestrian facilities. Further, acquiring additional right of way will add staff time and maintenance costs for the City. For these reasons, City staff recommends forgoing any additional right of way dedication.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All  
Fiscally Sustainable Government

### **Environmental Considerations**

Maintaining the City right of way as is and not expanding the roadway will aid in stormwater management concerns by not increasing the amount of impervious surface.

### **Fiscal Considerations**

Acquiring a wider right of way on Fenton Street will increase City staff time and costs for maintenance.

**Racial Equity Considerations**

There are no known impacts on racial equity as a result of this action.

**Attachments and Links**

- [City of Takoma Park – Montgomery College Math and Science Building Project Page](#)
- [Montgomery College - Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building](#)
- [Takoma Park Master Plan \(2000\)](#)
- [Fenton Street ROW Line Image](#)

Introduced by: Councilmember

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**Resolution No. 2018-**

**Amending Resolution 2018-63 to Clarify that No Change in the Width of the Fenton Street Right of Way is Needed by the City of Takoma Park**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council passed Resolution 2018-63 regarding the Montgomery College Math and Science Building on December 5, 2018 and the plan was submitted to Montgomery County Planning Department for Mandatory Referral review, as required; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County's staff review of the plan noted that the 2000 Takoma Park Master Plan Roadway Classification Table classifies Fenton Street as an arterial road with a recommended right of way width of 80'; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan recommends streetscaping and sidewalks on Fenton Street, including accommodation of the Metropolitan Branch Trail; and

WHEREAS, despite having variable right of way widths, those improvements have been installed on Fenton Street so that it now contains dedicated bike and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the street, with sidewalks on the Montgomery College side and the Metropolitan Branch Trail on the other side; and

WHEREAS, during this Mandatory Referral process, the City could request that the width of the right of way of Fenton Street adjacent to the project be increased; and

WHEREAS, while acquiring additional right of way is not needed for additional bike and pedestrian improvements, any additional right of way land will increase the City's right of way maintenance costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council declines to request an increase in the right of way width of Fenton Street as part of the Montgomery College Mandatory Referral process.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter City Clerk