

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Feighner <liz.feighner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support of CB11-2019
Attachments: Testimony CB11-2019 - Scenic Road.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Please accept my testimony in support of CB11-2019.

March 18, 2019

RE: Testimony in FAVOR of CB11-2019 – Scenic Road

My name is Liz Feighner, a 26 year resident in Hunter's Creek which is located along a scenic road. I am writing in in FAVOR of CB11-2019 which will strengthen Howard County's scenic road regulations. I wish to thank Councilwomen Jung, Rigby, and Walsh for introducing this bill after previous efforts by Dr. Ball and Jen Terrasa were unsuccessful.

We have watched several developments go in along or nearby Gorman Road, a designated scenic road over the last 25 years and have seen the changes these developments have done to the scenic views along Gorman Road. Although there is an existing Scenic Road Act, it obviously needs strengthening as the scenic characteristic of Gorman Road has not been maintained nor protected. I support any regulation that also addresses egress and ingress to any new development and provide public hearings when changes to the scenic road are proposed.

Just recently, I watched with great disappointment of trees being cut down along the north side of Gorman Road between the new Wincopia Farms development and the Skylark Boulevard intersection to put in gas lines. Not only was the loss of trees disappointing, the loss of the tree buffer exposed the development of homes on Sunbeam Place and Star Moon Lane.

When those homes were built, I was quite relieved that they were well hidden behind the tree buffer which seemed to still maintain the scenic characteristics of Gorman Road. Now those homes are now quite visible and it is another loss of the scenic nature of this area along Gorman Rd.

I strongly urge the passage of bill CB11-2019 to strengthen Howard County's scenic road regulations. I also request that the bill include language preventing the loss of trees or buffer along a scenic road when installing utilities for new developments.

Regards,

Liz Feighner
10306 Champions Way
Laurel, MD 20723

"We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our children." ~ Native American Proverb



March 18, 2019

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Regards,

Liz Feighner
10306 Champions Way
Laurel, MD 20723
liz.feighner@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Adrienne Breidenstine <abreidenstine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB11-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the County Council:

I write in **strong support of CB11-201** and thank Councilmembers Walsh, Rigby, and Jung for their leadership in protecting the scenic beauty in Howard County.

I live along the scenic part of Ilchester Road in Ellicott City so this bill would directly impact my neighborhood. This area of Ilchester Road has a lot of natural beauty, with the area being mostly forested and having a diversity of local wildlife. These types of areas are important to the unique history and high quality of life in our community so we must protect them.

Scenic roads are a precious resource—in particular in eastern Howard County—that must have a more meaningful degree of protection than county law currently provides. At present, the visual buffer for a scenic road is only 35 feet. Extending the visual buffer to 100 feet, as this bill does, would help to ensure that the historic nature our scenic roads are maintained.

“Scenic roads are part of the County’s high quality of life” (Plan Howard 2030, p. 43). Let’s work to make sure it stays that way. **I urge the Council to please pass CB11-2019** to protect the quality of life we have all come to enjoy in Howard county.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Breidenstine
Ellicott City, MD

From: Gregory Care <gregory.p.care@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 4:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB11-2019
Attachments: Ex. 1 - Scenic Roads Map (2016).pdf; Ex. 2 - Fragmentation Map.png; Ex. 3 - Vulnerability Map.png; Ex. 4 - Threat Map.png

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Dear Members of the County Council:

I write in support of CB11-201 and wish to thank Councilmembers Walsh, Rigby, and Jung for their leadership on this issue.

This bill is essential to providing the protection that scenic roads in our county deserve. After all, once development or other encroachment on a scenic road is done, it cannot be undone. Our scenic roads are, therefore, a precious resource that must have a more meaningful degree of protection than county law currently provides.

At present, the visual buffer for a scenic road is a mere 35 feet – just barely enough distance for a Ravens’ first down (11 yards). Needless to say, this is not sufficient protection of the “outstanding scenic or historic value” that define scenic roads and make them special. Howard County Code § 16.1401(b)

Scenic roads are a small subset of the county’s roads that can only earn that designation by a specific resolution of the Council after there has been a finding that the road meets the rigorous criteria for inclusion (two of which require “outstanding” views or natural resources features). Howard County Code § 16.1403(a), (b); § 16.1402(a).

The need for this bill is clear and extant. Development is proposed along several of the county’s precious scenic roads, including in District One where the few scenic roads we have left are under threat by proposed new housing that is planned to be shoe-horned into historic areas and far too close to adjacent scenic roads. Of course, this problem is one facing the more rural parts of the county where there presently exist a number of beautiful scenic roads. The Maryland Department of Planning has concluded that, of all the counties, Howard County has the most fragmented rural land resources in the state and highest pressure for development of rural resource lands. Maryland Scenic Byways Resource Protection Methodology: Sustaining the road less traveled at pp. 4, 12, available at: http://mdpgis.mdp.state.md.us/BywayResourceTool/SB_Methodology.pdf. The online maps provided by the Maryland Department of Planning show significant overlap between the county’s scenic roads (Exhibit 1, attached) and those areas that are highly fragmented, vulnerable, and under threat. (Exhibits 2-4). We must act now before it is too late.

“Scenic roads are part of the County’s high quality of life.” Plan Howard 2030, p. 43. Let’s make sure it stays that way. Please pass CB11-2019 and not a watered down version that does not provide the quality of life we have all come to expect in this great county.

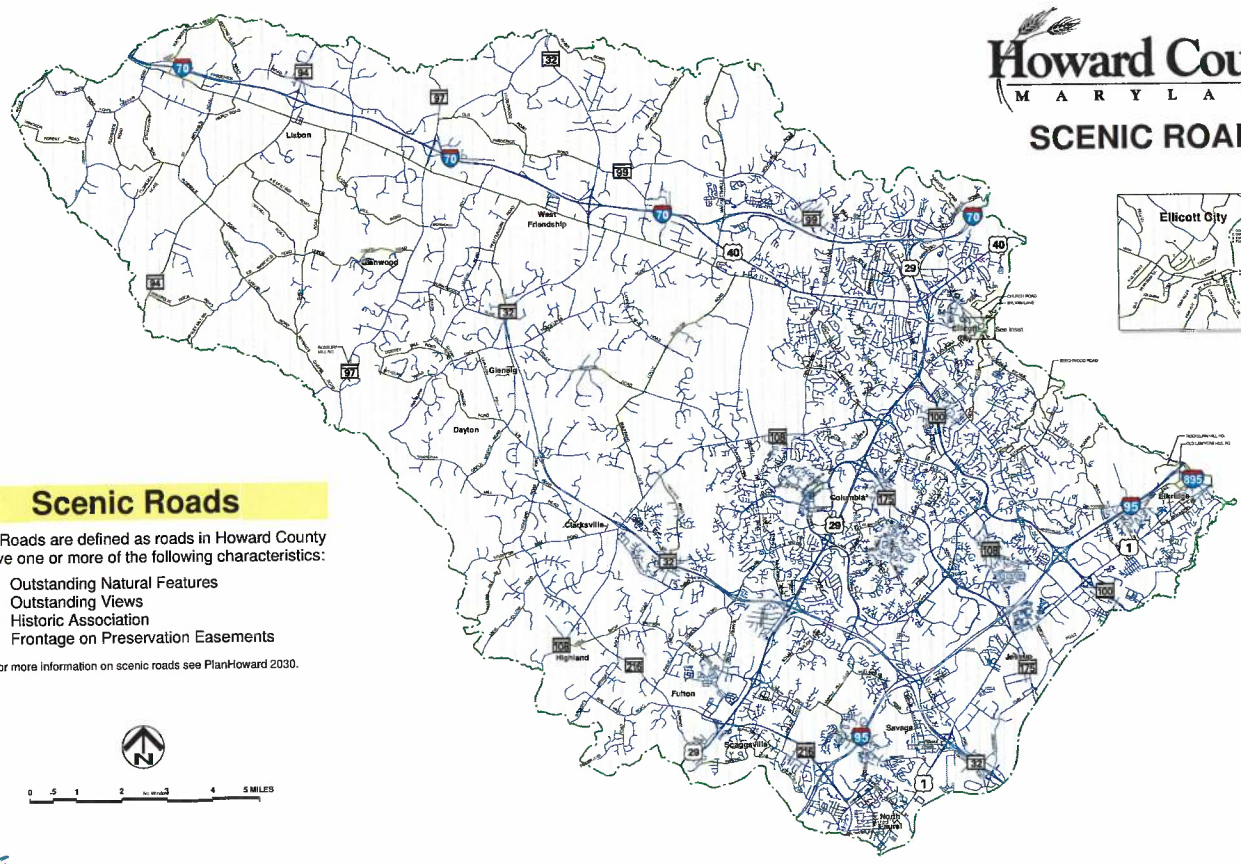
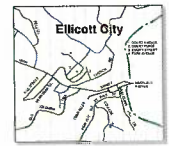
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Greg Care
Ellicott City, MD

Very truly yours,

Ex 2

Howard County MARYLAND SCENIC ROADS



Scenic Roads

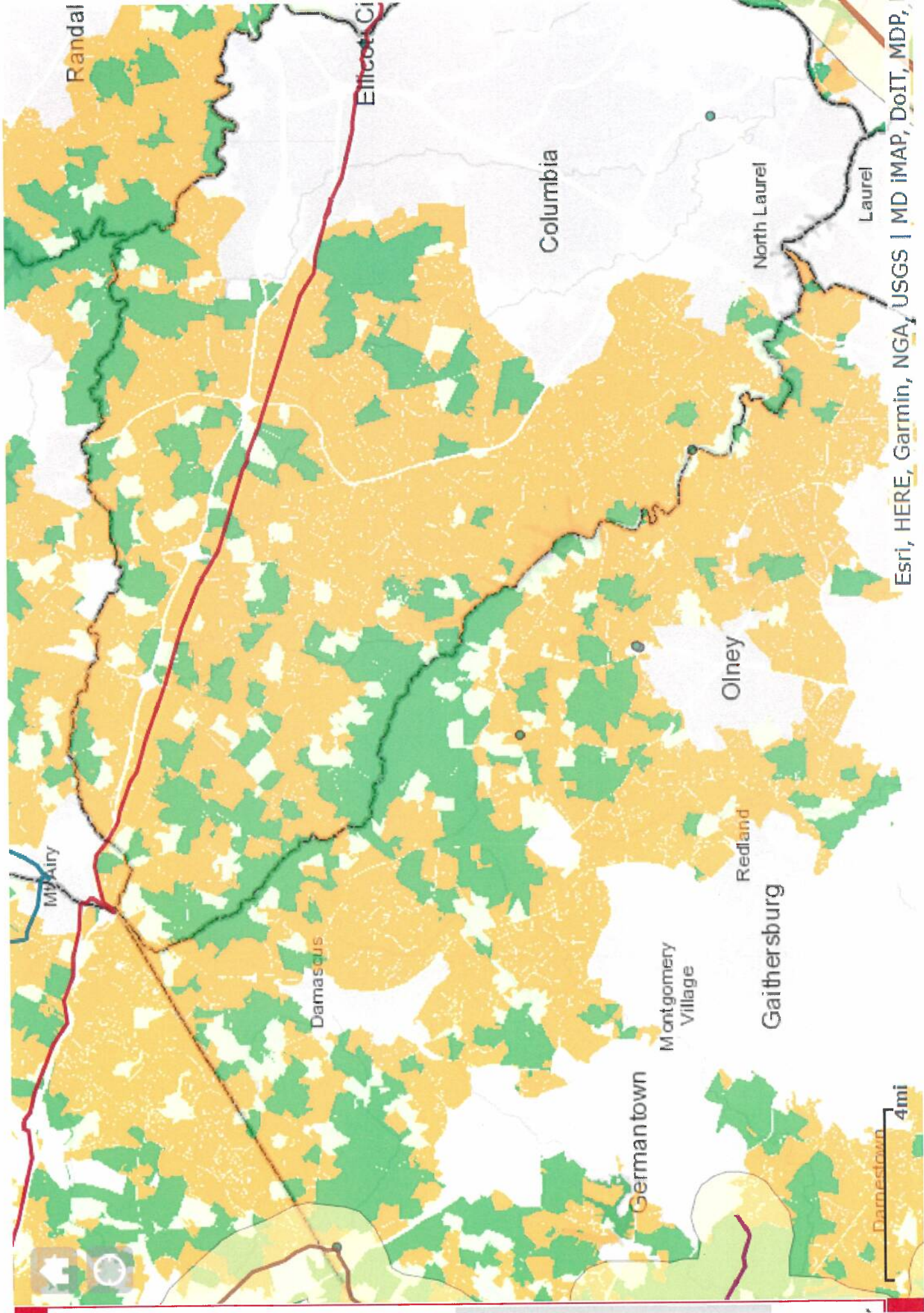
Scenic Roads are defined as roads in Howard County that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Outstanding Natural Features
- Outstanding Views
- Historic Association
- Frontage on Preservation Easements

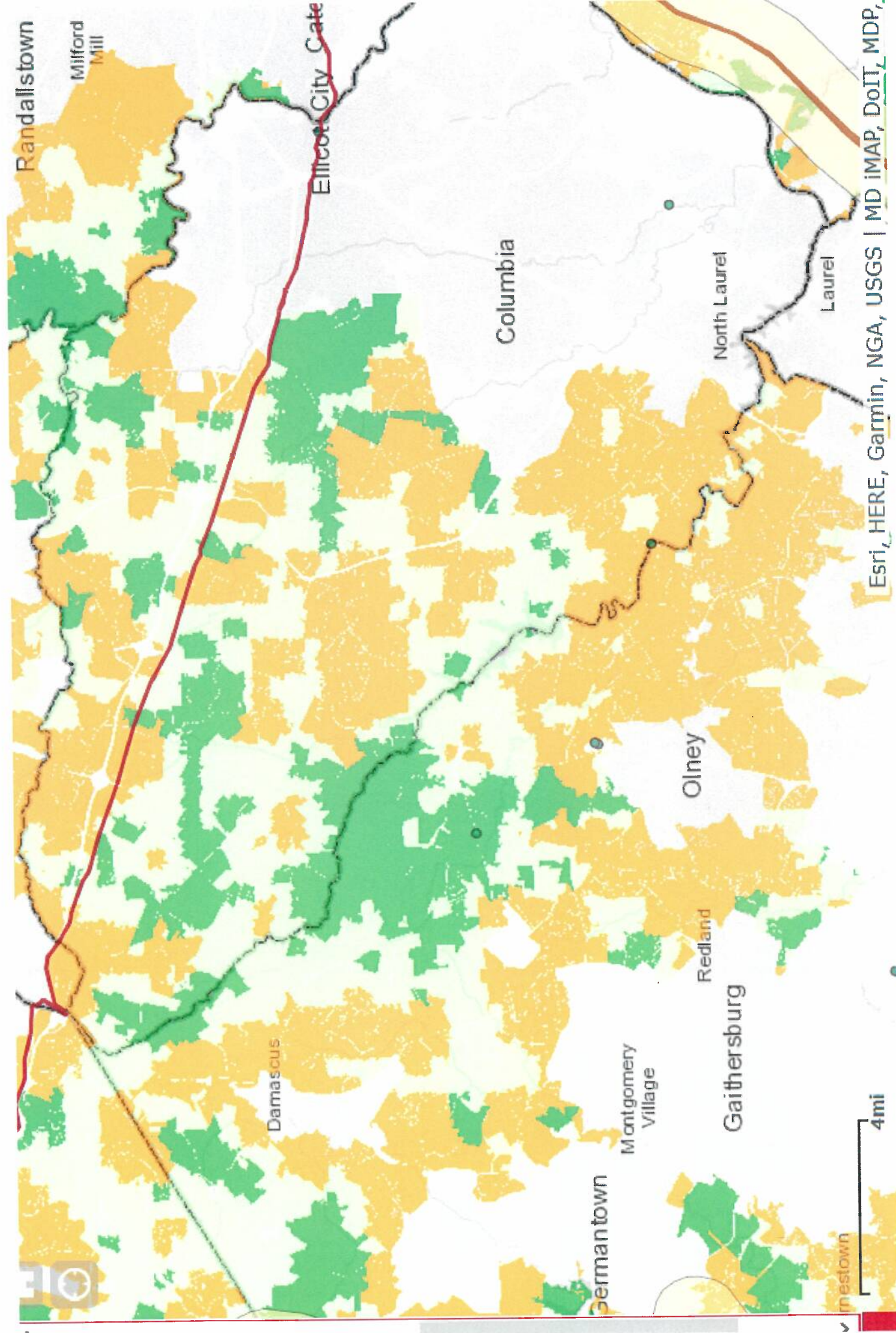
For more information on scenic roads see PlanHoward 2030.



Ex 2



Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS | MD iMAP, DoIT, MDP,



Ex 4

