
From: Carolyn Parsa <carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 10:18 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Ball, Calvin; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Debra; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony from Sierra Club: CR224-2025
Attachments: HoCo Sierra Club Testimony CR224-2025 11-17-2025.pdf

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Howard County Council Members,

Please find the attached testimony from the Howard County Sierra Club regarding CR224-2025.

Thank you.

--

Carolyn Parsa
Sierra Club Howard County Chair



November 17, 2025

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CR224-2025

Members of the County Council,

The Howard County Sierra Club is in support of passing CR224-2025 introduced by Liz Walsh. This resolution would amend the Howard County Scenic Roads inventory to include two new stretches of roadway. The Howard County Sierra Club supports preserving the beauty and nature surrounding historic and scenic roads.

The first section that is proposed to be added for protection in the Scenic Roads inventory is a portion of Old Frederick Road from Rogers Ave to the Baltimore County line. This road has rolling terrain along with scenic views that include forested areas and rows of trees. There are many historic sites along the road that would support the need to add this stretch into the inventory.

The second stretch of road is a portion of Main Street that extends from the Ellicott City Historic District and goes into Frederick Road. This road has historical significance because it is a part of the historic road alignment of the "Old National Pike," America's first federally funded highway. There are many historic landmarks from the Howard County Historic Sites Inventory located along this stretch of road. Adding this section to the Scenic Roads inventory will offer more protection to these structures as well as provide a better way to view them by maintaining the scenic character of the area.

Adding these roads into the inventory would help preserve the historic scenic character of surrounding areas, adding to the existing beauty of our county.

We respectfully ask the you to pass CR224-2025.

Carolyn Parsa, Chair
Howard County Sierra Club
carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org

From: Megan G <gratz.megan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2025 3:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Laituri, Mary
Subject: CR224-2025 Scenic Roads Testimony
Attachments: CR224-2025 Scenic Roads Inventory Amendment Letter.pdf

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I would like to provide written testimony in regard to Amendment CR224-2025 Scenic Roads Inventory.
Please see my attached letter of testimony.

Thank you,

Megan Gratz

Submitted by Megan Gratz

11/21/2025

Dear members of the Planning Board and County Council,

As a resident of Ellicott City, I would like to express my strong support for the proposed amendment (CR224-2025) to the Scenic Roads Inventory, which would include portions of Old Frederick Road, Frederick Road, and Main Street in Ellicott City. These roadways are not only vital transportation routes but also living testaments to the rich cultural, architectural, and environmental heritage of Howard County. Among the oldest thoroughfares in the region, they trace their origins to the early 18th and 19th centuries and offer scenic vistas of rolling hills and mature tree canopies. Their inclusion in the Scenic Roads Inventory is both timely and essential, reflecting their historical, Environmental and Aesthetic Value.

As part of the Old National Pike, the nation's first federally funded highway, and home to 14 registered historic sites, the proposed portion of Main Street and Frederick Road hold exceptional historical importance. This corridor extends the historic charm and character of the Ellicott City Historic District. A mix of old and new homes, showcasing diverse architectural styles, illustrates the transformation of Howard County over time. With tree canopies, hillsides, and waterways interwoven throughout, Frederick Road offers a rare blend of urban and rural scenery.

Old Frederick Road is equally significant, with landmarks such as the William Hollifield House, the William Thomas Farmhouse, and the Kefauver Boarding House. Its features, including the B&O Railroad crossing and the steel truss bridge over the Patapsco River, evoke a 1930s countryside appeal. Winding through Patapsco State Park and across the river, Old Frederick Road provides a natural landscape that has become increasingly rare in Howard County.

These natural features not only provide visual beauty but also contribute to the ecological health of our community. Scenic designation will help preserve their character and protect them from overdevelopment or insensitive alterations.

In the wake of recent flooding events, Ellicott City has undertaken significant efforts to rebuild and reimagine its future. Adding these roads to the Scenic Roads Inventory aligns with broader goals of sustainable development, historic preservation, and community resilience. It ensures that future infrastructure improvements respect the unique character of these roads and the communities they serve. I respectfully urge the Planning Board and County Council to adopt this amendment. By recognizing Old Frederick Road, Frederick Road, and Main Street as scenic roads, we affirm our commitment to preserving the beauty, history, and identity of Ellicott City for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Gratz', with a stylized, cursive script.

Megan Gratz

Ellicott City Resident

From: Sharon Boies <sbmuzicmts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 1:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David; Jung, Debra
Subject: [WARNING: AMP - ATTACHMENT(S) MAY CONTAIN MALWARE]CR224 -2025 Scenic Roads, Oral and written testimony - in Support
Attachments: Howard County Resolution CR 224_2025 Scenic Roads_ Oral Testimony _Public Comment _ In Support .docx

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Dear Council members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify In Favor of CR224-2025 on 11/17/2025.

I am in favor of the resolution and I kindly ask for your support. Please vote in favor of CR224-2025.

Thank you.

Truly Yours,

Sharon Boies

Columbia, MD

November 17, 2025

Good evening,

My name is Sharon Boies. I live in Columbia, 21044.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of County Resolution 224 - 2025 which if passed, would add portions of Old Frederick Road and Main Street/Frederick Road in historic Ellicott City to the scenic roads inventory.

So much has changed in Howard County since 1994 when the Howard County Scenic Roads Act was first established to protect roads of certain character, that family and friends who grew up here, and moved away, don't recognize where they are anymore on their trips back home.

Scenic roads connect us to our heritage and our history. They help preserve natural and cultural resources. They encourage people to slow down for a few minutes and to take a look around and maybe enjoy a few minutes of shade on a hot summer day. They provide respite from fast paced roads and give people a chance to think about what they're seeing, that's still left from past generations.

Our scenic roads in Maryland are at risk as we continue to lose them to development. Citing a 2020 article from the Bay Journal, the State Highway Administration removed more than 250 miles from their scenic roads program due to sprawl.

Fortunately, the Howard County Scenic Roads Act allows for periodic additions to the inventory, by resolution, for roads that have specific characteristics.

The sections of the roads listed in CR 224-2025 meet these requirements. They are not only rich in natural and cultural resources, but they also both contain many of Howard County's remaining historic buildings and sites. Main Street Ellicott City passes through an entire historic district... and Old Frederick Road crosses through a forested river valley in the Patapsco Valley

State Park. These are places that have seen the bad, the ugly, and the good, over the course of time, and help tell the story of our country's history.

Both roads pass through areas that deserve a little additional recognition and the slight bit of protection that comes along with being named a Scenic Route.

I'll close with a poem that I came across, but I apologize I don't know the author.

The highway hums a steady tune,
But I will take the scenic route.
Past sleeping farms and a fading moon,
I'll watch the country unfold, no doubt.
Small towns and valleys, rich and deep,
Where quiet, untold stories sleep.

I hope that all future generations will always have the choice to be able to take the scenic route, on roads that connect us with our past, and enjoy a few slower moments in a hurried world.

I ask you to please vote in support of CR 224-2025

Thank you for your time tonight.

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/news_service/vanishing-acts-the-mid-atlantics-disappearing-landscapes/article_4fe74ec8-1a66-53f3-b09b-26f5a2d064a0.html