

Little Falls Parkway Timeline

January 2017: Bicyclist struck and killed by motorist while crossing the Capital Crescent Trail at Little Falls Parkway.

- Parks Dept. instituted road “diet” from Hillandale Road to Arlington Road, closing off one lane in each direction without notification to public.

June 2018: Public meeting with Parks Dept. to discuss solutions to the Parkway and Trail crossing.

- Three alternatives discussed:
 - #1 – bridge over LFP, returning Parkway to 4 lanes.
 - #2 – move CCT crossing to traffic signal at Arlington Road & returning Parkway to 4 lanes.
 - #3 – a permanent crosswalk with the road diet.

July-August 2018: Letters sent to Parks Dept. from CCT Board and Citizens’ Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights to urge crossing at traffic signal on Arlington Road until a bridge can be built.

November 2018: Letters sent to Parks Dept. supporting alternatives to road diet from CCT Board, CCCFH, individual citizens representing 8 area communities.

December 2018: U.S. Representative Doris Matsui, a resident of Kenwood, writes to Parks Dept. to support crossing at Arlington Road traffic signal and opening all lanes of Parkway.

February 2019: Parks Dept. consultant studies 3 choices and favors mid-crossing and keeping Parkway road diet.

June 2019: Planning Board supports opening Parkway and moving crossing to traffic signal at Arlington Road in 4-1 vote in coordination with County’s Vision Zero plan. Commissioners Norman Dreyfuss and Tina Patterson question cost analysis of pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Parkway.

August 2019: Parks Dept. holds meeting with all stakeholders – Parks Dept., Montgomery County DOT, Councilmember representatives and community members -- to show implementation of Planning Board decision with a simplified

crossing at the light, a less expensive alternative to the Parks' plan, to be implemented in the spring.

September 12, 2019: At a work session on the Parks budget for the Capital Improvements Program, the Planning Board votes to defer decision for 6 years to move CCT crossing to Arlington Road and reopen Parkway, claiming expense is too great for current budget. June 2019 PB vote at a public meeting is disregarded; road diet continues. Community questions whether this follows correct procedure to rescind a public vote.

September 23, 2019: CCCFH writes letter protesting Planning Board rescinding open June 2019 vote by Planning Board, ostensibly done because of estimated expense. There was no response to the letter.

February 2020: CCCFH files formal Public Information Act request to the Parks Dept. asking for detailed information as to the expense for changing the CCT crossing to Arlington Road. Parks responds this is already public on its website.

April 14, 2020 – September 6, 2020: Parks Dept. closes LFP Friday 7 a.m. – Sunday 6 p.m. (Beach Drive and Sligo Creek also under the Parks Dept.; hours and days of week may differ) and initiates an Open Parkways Program, closing the parkways to all vehicle traffic on weekends in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, enabling citizens to walk safely outside with 6 feet of distance between families. Nearby communities experienced increased cut-through traffic but respected the health crisis issue.

September 12, 2020 – November 29, 2020: Parks Dept. closes LFP Saturday 7 a.m. – Sunday 4 p.m.

March 2021: Parks Dept. reopens LFP from Massachusetts Avenue to River Road 24/7 to vehicle traffic, to allow Little Falls Place access to their main entrance.

March 27, 2021-Present: LFP from River Road to Arlington Road remains closed from Saturday 7 a.m. to Sunday. Hours for closing switch between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Currently they are opened until 4 p.m.

March 2022: Meeting called by Councilman Friedson's office, with Kenwood, Chevy Chase West and Somerset, with the Parks Dept. Parks acknowledges plans

for closing part of LFP for a linear park. This is the first time the public is informed in advance of any changes planned for LFP.

June 18, 2022: Parks suspends its Open Parkways program and initiates Phase I of a plan to study a “road diet” reducing LFP by one lane in each direction but keeping the divided roadway from River Road to Arlington Road.

Speed bumps, 3 (three) in each direction, are installed from Massachusetts Avenue to River Road.

October 2022: State Delegate Marc Korman holds a public forum with the Parks Dept. and Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation to discuss the Little Falls Parkway intersection at Massachusetts Avenue and Little Falls Parkway.

November 2022: Phase II of the “road diet” begins, closing both southbound lanes of LFP, moving both north and southbound traffic to one side of the parkway, on what previously was only the northbound lanes of traffic.

February 15, 2023: Parks holds a community meeting via Zoom to justify the closure of two lanes of LFP with traffic data, public use of the closed lanes, and to answer questions about the road closure and linear park. Nearly 200 members of the community attend.