

**From:** [Paul Bertulis](#)  
**To:** [Singleton, Kristofer](#); [Rembeci, Erjon](#); [Eatough, Christopher](#)  
**Cc:** [James C. Fritz](#); [Adam Downes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Rockburn Hill Road - Site Visit  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:27:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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No but that would certainly be helpful – 95 would be the problem.

However, it would be nice if the Claremont Drive neighborhood could get a connection somehow to Summerhouse (perhaps Grafton’s View)..

## ***Paul Bertulis***

Planning Manager | Office of Student Transportation  
Howard County Public School System  
5451 Beaverkill Road  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-313-6727



### **Howard County Public School System Office of Student Transportation**

**Striving For Their Safety**  
**Whether by Bus, Bike, or Foot**

---

**From:** Singleton, Kristofer <[ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** Paul Bertulis <[Paul\\_Bertulis@hcpss.org](mailto:Paul_Bertulis@hcpss.org)>; Rembeci, Erjon <[erembeci@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:erembeci@howardcountymd.gov)>; Eatough, Christopher <[CEatough@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CEatough@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** James C. Fritz <[James\\_Fritz@hcpss.org](mailto:James_Fritz@hcpss.org)>; Adam Downes <[Adam\\_Downes@hcpss.org](mailto:Adam_Downes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: Rockburn Hill Road - Site Visit

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Reading between the lines, they are asking to be moved to the non-transported zone?

cls

---

**From:** Paul Bertulis <[Paul\\_Bertulis@hcpss.org](mailto:Paul_Bertulis@hcpss.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 12:39 PM

**To:** Rembeci, Erjon <[erembeci@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:erembeci@howardcountymd.gov)>; Eatough, Christopher <[CEatough@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CEatough@howardcountymd.gov)>; Singleton, Kristofer <[ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Cc:** James C. Fritz <[James\\_Fritz@hcpss.org](mailto:James_Fritz@hcpss.org)>; Adam Downes <[Adam\\_Downes@hcpss.org](mailto:Adam_Downes@hcpss.org)>

**Subject:** Rockburn Hill Road - Site Visit

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Good afternoon all-

Our office has been in talks with residents along Rockburn Hill Road in the Republic of Elkridge and safety concerns getting a school bus into the neighborhood. Before we offer advice to Jahantab for his response, would you be able to meet us on site one morning this week? It should only take a few minutes. Please let me know your availability the next few mornings if possible.

Rockburn Hill Road @ River Rd (Levering Ave) in Elkridge

9/18 8:30am-12pm

9/19 AM 8am-9:00am

9/20 AM 8:30am-12pm

Thanks!

***Paul Bertulis***

Planning Manager | Office of Student Transportation

Howard County Public School System

5451 Beaverkill Road

Columbia, MD 21044

410-313-6727



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**From:** [Eatough, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Paul Bertulis](#); [Rembeci, Erjon](#); [Singleton, Kristofer](#)  
**Cc:** [James C. Fritz](#); [Adam Downes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Rockburn Hill Road - Site Visit  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 1:47:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Ok.

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**From:** Paul Bertulis <Paul\_Bertulis@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 1:43 PM  
**To:** Eatough, Christopher <CEatough@howardcountymd.gov>; Rembeci, Erjon <erembeci@howardcountymd.gov>; Singleton, Kristofer <ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** James C. Fritz <James\_Fritz@hcpss.org>; Adam Downes <Adam\_Downes@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Rockburn Hill Road - Site Visit

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Let's do 8:30am tomorrow morning and I can potentially meet separately with Kris and Erjon next week if need be. I know Erjon may want to chime in since it is so close to his River Road signage project.

### ***Paul Bertulis***

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Columbia, MD 21044  
410-313-6727



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**Office of Student Transportation**

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---

**From:** Eatough, Christopher <CEatough@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 12:58 PM

**To:** Paul Bertulis <[Paul\\_Bertulis@hcpss.org](mailto:Paul_Bertulis@hcpss.org)>; Rembeci, Erjon <[erembeci@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:erembeci@howardcountymd.gov)>; Singleton, Kristofer <[ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** James C. Fritz <[James\\_Fritz@hcpss.org](mailto:James_Fritz@hcpss.org)>; Adam Downes <[Adam\\_Downes@hcpss.org](mailto:Adam_Downes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: Rockburn Hill Road - Site Visit

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9/18 8:30am-12pm 8:30am works me. Would need to be done by 9:10.

9/19 AM 8am-9:00am 8am works for me. Would need to be done by 8:30.

9/20 AM 8:30am-12pm 10am to noon works for me.

---

**From:** Paul Bertulis <[Paul\\_Bertulis@hcpss.org](mailto:Paul_Bertulis@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 12:39 PM  
**To:** Rembeci, Erjon <[erembeci@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:erembeci@howardcountymd.gov)>; Eatough, Christopher <[CEatough@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CEatough@howardcountymd.gov)>; Singleton, Kristofer <[ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ksingleton@howardcountymd.gov)>  
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Rockburn Hill Road @ River Rd (Levering Ave) in Elkridge

9/18 8:30am-12pm

9/19 AM 8am-9:00am

9/20 AM 8:30am-12pm

Thanks!

***Paul Bertulis***

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Howard County Public School System  
5451 Beaverkill Road  
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410-313-6727



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**From:** Paul Bertulis  
**To:** Bill Stolis; Adam Downes  
**Cc:** Brian Nevin  
**Subject:** RE: [External] FW: B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 10:59:03 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

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I agree. That coupled with the bridge weight restriction is an issue. I think if we are to make a push for not bringing a bus through that tight area, now is the chance given the stability issue of the bridge.

### **Paul Bertulis**

Area Manager | Student Transportation Office  
Howard County Public School System  
5451 Beaverkill Road  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-313-6727

---

**From:** Bill Stolis <Bill\_Stolis@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** Adam Downes <Adam\_Downes@hcpss.org>  
**Cc:** Paul Bertulis <Paul\_Bertulis@hcpss.org>; Brian Nevin <Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] FW: B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles

I found students at each level that live up on "Rockburn Hill Rd". 1 Howard HS (██████████); 1 ELMS (██████████) and 5 for EES (across various grades). With the current construction and the bridge restrictions we would need to bring their stop to RIVER RD - LAWYERS HILL RD - LEVERING AVE at the hairpin turn to create an "all stop" at that point. I checked Special Ed for these schools and don't see students. There may be kids at Homewood, Cedar Lane or Non- Publics.

Adam - can you do a query to see if others are affected? Only street involved would be ROCKBURN HILL RD.

Otherwise I can get word to the families affected. Tip Top #745 does the HS and ES. Torchwood #613 does the middle school. I will check with the drivers to see if they have 'real' activity. I know they do for ES.

Going forward with policy updates and bus safety, we would prefer to not access with a full-size bus into that area. It is poorly paved, remote, steep ravines and not bus friendly. Maybe an alternative vehicle but not a traditional school bus.

Bill Stolis  
Area Manager  
Student Transportation Office  
Howard County Public School System  
410-313-6899 Phone  
██████████

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**From:** Brian Nevin <Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:36 PM  
**To:** Bill Stolis <Bill\_Stolis@hcpss.org>; Paul Bertulis <Paul\_Bertulis@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** FW: [External] FW: B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles

Lets discuss this tomorrow and create a plan.  
Thanks  
Brian

Brian Nevin, Director  
Student Transportation Office  
Howard County Public School System  
410-313-6726

---

**From:** Patel, Nirav <npatel@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:13 PM  
**To:** Brian Nevin <Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org>  
**Cc:** Bill Stolis <Bill\_Stolis@hcpss.org>; Bertulis, Paul <PBertulis@howardcountymd.gov>; Bai, Yuqiong <ybai@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] FW: B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles  
**Importance:** High

**! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good evening all,

Please give your immediate attention to this matter as it concerns with the safety of school bus riders crossing this bridge. DPW's Construction Inspection Division has instructed the trash and recycling truck to use the park entrance on Baltimore County side to serve the residents past this bridge which only has 10 tons capacity. All trucks including school buses weigh more than 15 tons. We've made repairs to the beams prior to the start of the replacement of this bridge, however, it only brought up the capacity to 10 tons. School bus do use this bridge everyday and there hasn't been any issue yet but that does not mean that it's safe to cross it. Please inform the school bus operators using this bridge that it's not safe to cross this bridge and if they do, it will be on their own risk.

There are two possible alternatives that I can think of at this point.

1. Route all the buses thru State park. This is the least favorable option as DNR indicated that they do not like to have school buses access this road especially the gravelly road highlighted in yellow in the attached Google Map.
2. Depending upon how many kids live past this street, they can walk past the bridge to be picked up and dropped off to avoid buses crossing this bridge.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thanks,  
Nirav

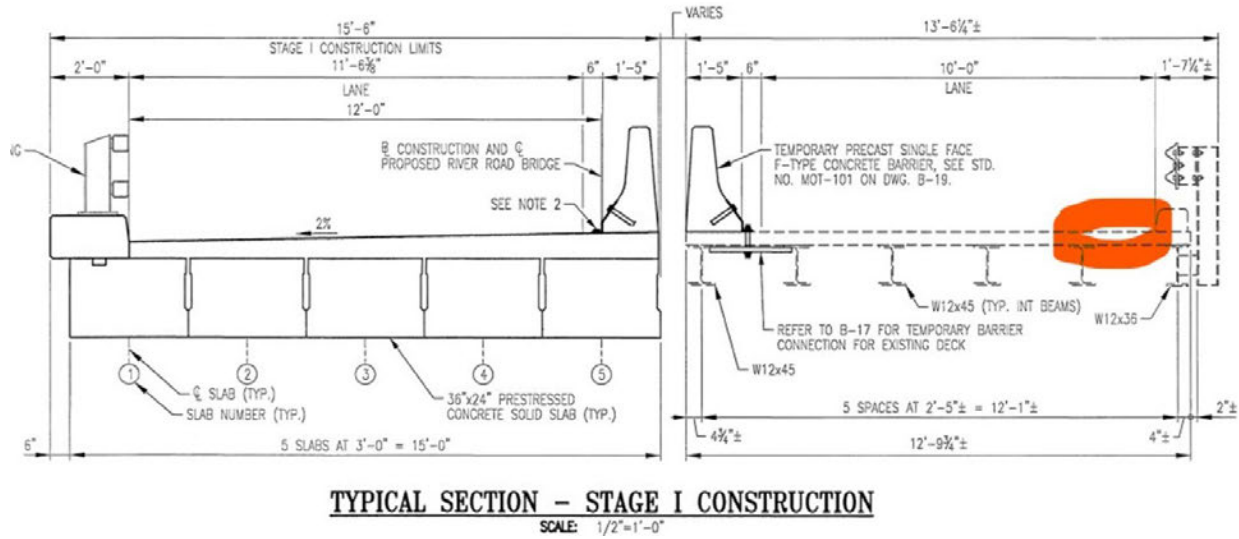
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**From:** Patel, Nirav  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 3:28 PM  
**To:** Joe Vogelpohl -DNR- <joe.vogelpohl@maryland.gov>  
**Cc:** Rob Dyke -DNR- <rob.dyke@maryland.gov>; Kirk, Bryan <bkirk@howardcountymd.gov>; Miller, Elwood <emiller@howardcountymd.gov>; Brian Nevin (Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org) <Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon Joe,

As you may be aware of the construction of Howard County's capital project no. B3831 - River Road over Rockburn Branch bridge replacement. Currently all the traffic has been shifted on the 10 ft. wide roadway section (upstream end) of the existing bridge with more impacts to exterior and first interior beams which were repaired and brought back to 10 tons capacity prior to the start of the construction. Existing roadway (asphalt) is currently supported by corrugated metal deck pans which has not much structural capacity left due to the extreme corrosion. In the past, trash & recycling trucks as well as school buses crossed the bridge without any issues because the majority of the live load (vehicular load) was centered over 5 interior beams which are in good shape. The recycling collection is every Tuesday and trash collection is every Friday before 9 am. The truck weight (empty) is 34,000 lbs which is beyond the existing weight capacity of the bridge.

Last Friday (5/23), County's inspector observed some depressions forming (circled in orange color below) on the roadway edges of the bridge deck due to the increased frequency of the heavy vehicles. After being aware of this situation, County immediately plated the entire bridge deck area with steel plates to prevent further damage. However, County is still concerned of these heavy trucks crossing the existing bridge and would like to request DNR to permit these trucks including school bus to utilize the park road as an alternate route. We anticipate one lane on the new bridge to be open to traffic by the end of August. We are looking for some direction with this matter very urgently.



Please let me know if you have any question.

Thank you

**Nirav Patel, P.E.**

Transportation & Special Projects Division (Structures)

Bureau of Engineering

Howard County Department of Public Works

7125 Riverwood Drive, Suite B

Columbia, MD 21046

(410) 313-6153 (O)

[npatel@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:npatel@howardcountymd.gov)



**From:** Brian Nevin  
**To:** Patel, Nirav  
**Cc:** Bill Stolis; Bertulis, Paul; Bai, Yuqiong  
**Subject:** RE: [External] FW: B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:36:11 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Hi Nirav,  
 I will get with staff tomorrow and advise. Thanks for following up as I was out all last week.  
 Brian

Brian Nevin, Director  
 Student Transportation Office  
 Howard County Public School System  
 410-313-6726

**From:** Patel, Nirav <npatel@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:13 PM  
**To:** Brian Nevin <Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org>  
**Cc:** Bill Stolis <Bill\_Stolis@hcpss.org>; Bertulis, Paul <PBertulis@howardcountymd.gov>; Bai, Yuqiong <ybai@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] FW: B3831-River Road Bridge - Park access for Trash/Recycle/School Vehicles  
**Importance:** High

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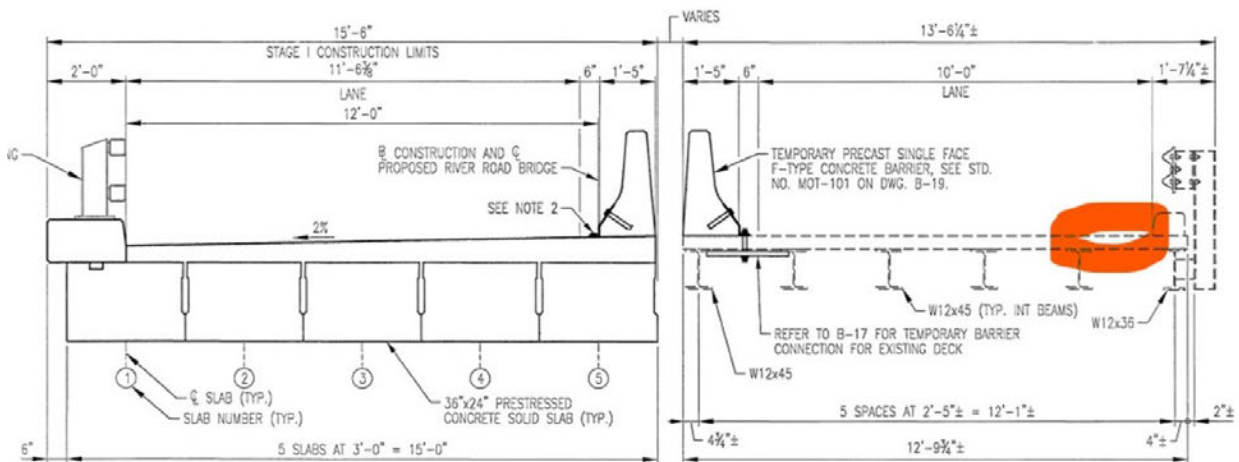
Thanks,  
 Nirav

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**Cc:** Rob Dyke -DNR- <rob.dyke@maryland.gov>; Kirk, Bryan <bkirk@howardcountymd.gov>; Miller, Elwood <emiller@howardcountymd.gov>; Brian Nevin (Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org) <Brian\_Nevin@hcpss.org>  
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**TYPICAL SECTION - STAGE I CONSTRUCTION**  
 SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"

Please let me know if you have any question.

Thank you

**Nirav Patel, P.E.**

Transportation & Special Projects Division (Structures)  
Bureau of Engineering  
Howard County Department of Public Works

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Columbia, MD 21046  
(410) 313-6153 (O)  
[npatel@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:npatel@howardcountymd.gov)