



March 31, 2026

TO: Jeff Mihelich, City Manager

FROM: Bryan Barnett-Woods, AICP, Vision Zero Coordinator *BB*

VIA: Daniel Seo, P.E., Acting Chief of Traffic and Transportation *DS*
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SUBJECT: Vision Zero Post-Crash Inspection – March 1, 2026, Norbeck Road (MD 28) and Avery Road

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a report for the inspection conducted by city staff after the fatal pedestrian crash on March 1, 2026. After a fatal crash in Rockville, the Montgomery County Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) manages the crash investigation and prepares the CRU crash report. Unlike property damage or minor injury crashes, this process can take months to complete. While the CRU prepares its report, the city conducts a Vision Zero Post Crash Inspection shortly after a fatal crash is reported.

The city's Department of Public Works (DPW) inspects the roadway pavement, sidewalks, curb ramps, signs, and pavement markings; confirms that the traffic signals and pedestrian signals are operating appropriately; assesses whether the streetlights are working and whether lighting is sufficient. Additionally, the Communications and Community Engagement Department (CCE) posts Vision Zero safety messages relevant to all modes of travel. Lastly, the Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) determines whether additional enforcement for pedestrians and motorists is necessary.

This memo, and subsequent Vision Zero post-crash inspection memos, will be posted on the City's Vision Zero webpage and be accessible to the public.

Additionally, as part of state legislation, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), will prepare a "Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatality Infrastructure Review". This review will be posted to the MDOT SHA website within six months of the crash.

March 1, 2026, Norbeck Road (MD 28) at Avery Road

On March 1, 2026, at approximately 6:30 PM, a motorist struck a pedestrian just east of Avery Road on Norbeck Road (MD 28). The pedestrian died at the scene of the crash. Norbeck Road (MD 28) is a state-owned and maintained roadway. Avery Road is a city-owned and maintained roadway. The Montgomery County CRU is currently investigating the crash.

Post Crash Inspection Findings and Response

DPW staff completed its post-crash inspection between March 2, 2026, and March 20, 2026. Staff inspected the intersection of Norbeck Road and Avery Road, Norbeck Road near the crash location, and along both roadways approaching the intersection.

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Signage and Pavement Markings – Along eastbound Norbeck Road (MD 28) there is a faded “no parking” sign and a “one way” and “keep right” sign that is leaning over. On the westbound side, there is a faded pedestrian crossing and arrow sign. The marked crosswalk and eastbound stop bar are faded and should be replaced. All other signs and pavement markings on Norbeck Road are acceptable.

DPW staff has reported sign and pavement marking deficiencies to MDOT SHA.

On Avery Road, the marked crosswalks and pavement markings are in good shape. There is a 25 MPH sign that is faded, and city staff have replaced the sign.

Roadway Pavement and Sidewalk – DPW staff has reported that the pavement surface on Avery Road and Norbeck Road (MD 28) is acceptable. DPW staff resurfaced Avery Road two years ago and MDOT SHA resurface this section of Norbeck Road (MD 28) in 2024 and 2025. There is no sidewalk along the south side (eastbound) of Norbeck Road and along the west side (southbound) of Avery Road. The existing sidewalks on the north side of Norbeck Road and the east side of Avery Road, which are asphalt, are acceptable.

DPW staff have requested MDOT SHA to construct a sidewalk along the south side of Norbeck Road between bus stop (Stop ID: 24556), and the intersection with Avery Road.

Intersection Signals – The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is responsible for the signal operations at Norbeck Road (MD 28) and Avery Road. DPW staff met with MCDOT to evaluate the signals and determined that the signals were working as programmed.

Streetlights– The streetlights along Avery Road are operational and providing light as programmed. There is also a streetlight in the intersection which is functioning appropriately. There are no streetlights along Norbeck Road east of the intersection.

Public Outreach – The CCE Department prepared and posted Rockville Vision Zero Public Safety Announcements for pedestrian and motorist safety. These messages focused on pedestrians using marked crosswalks and crossing signals and on motorists using headlights and being vigilant while driving at night. These messages were released through the City’s social media and other channels. Additionally, the March Rockville Reports included an article sharing pedestrian and motorist safety tips.

Enforcement – The RCPD has added this section of Norbeck Road to its patrol list for additional traffic enforcement. Since the crash investigation is still ongoing, the RCPD is not specifically targeting any violation type, but conducting increased enforcement all around.

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Crash history at Norbeck Road and Avery Road

Under the city's Vision Zero program, this section of Norbeck Road is included in the High Injury Network (HIN). Using data from the Automated Crash Reporting System from Data Montgomery, between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2025, there were 34 crashes at or near the intersection, of those crashes 19 were classified as "property damage only," 13 of the crashes were classified as "Possible Injury," or "Suspected Minor Injury," and two crashes were classified as "Suspected Serious Injury." None of the crashes involved pedestrians or bicyclists.

City staff has requested MDOT SHA to provide the "Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatality Infrastructure Review" when it is available.

Future planned improvements

Norbeck Road (MD 28) is owned and maintained by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). The speed limit on Norbeck Road (MD 28) near the intersection with Avery Road was reduced last year to 40 MPH. There are no planned improvements along this section of Norbeck Road (MD 28)

Conclusion and Next Steps

DPW staff completed its Vision Zero post-crash inspection for the fatal pedestrian crash that occurred on March 1, 2026. Staff shared the inspection results with MDOT SHA and has requested the state take the following actions:

1. Provide the "Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatality Infrastructure Review" when it is available.
2. Construct a sidewalk along the south side of Norbeck Road (MD 28) between the bus stop (Stop ID: 24556) and the intersection with Avery Road.

Additionally, DPW and RCPD staff will coordinate with the Montgomery County CRU to obtain the crash report when it is available. Lastly, DPW staff will continue to track transportation safety concerns raised by the public regarding this section of Norbeck Road (MD 28).

BBW/ktt