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# Transcript of Hearing - Day 2 

Date: February 1, 2022
Case: EYA Development, LLC

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| 1 PROCEEDINGS | 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Shaffer or Mr. |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: So we are | 2 Burdin, any further voir dire of the -- of Mr. McLaurin's |
| 3 officially on the record in LMA 143. We are on day two | 3 resume or background or experience? |
| 4 beginning with Ms. Girard's next witness. Ms. Girard, the | 4 MR. SHAFFER: None, sir. |
| 5 floor is yours. | 5 MR. BURDIN: Doug Burdin here. I don't have any. |
| 6 MS. GIRARD: Okay, thank you. My next witness is | 6 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Having |
| 7 Jack McLaurin. | 7 reviewed the resume and the voir dire thus far, I am |
| 8 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I see you there, | 8 admitting Mr. McLaurin as an expert for the purposes of this |
| 9 sir. Please give us your full name for your business | 9 hearing in architecture. |
| 10 address, and an email address, please. | 10 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. Mr. McLaurin, have you |
| 11 MR. MCLAURIN: Okay. My full name is Jack, middle | 11 looked at the -- are you familiar with the property? |
| 12 initial F, McLaurin. That's M-C-L-A-U-R-I-N. For | 12 MR. MCLAURIN: Yes, I am. |
| 13 clarification purposes, the legal name on my professional | 13 MS. GIRARD: Of the local map amendment? |
| 14 license, my architectural license, is John. But | 14 MR. MCLAURIN: Yes, I am. |
| 15 professionally I go by Jack. My company name is EYA, LLC | 15 MS. GIRARD: And were you present yesterday for |
| 16 My business address is 4800 Hampden Lane; H-A-M-P-D-E-N Lane, | 16 the testimony of Mr. Sloan regarding compatibility with the |
| 17 Number 300, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. | 17 surrounding area? |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And a good email | 18 MR. MCLAURIN: Yes, I was. |
| 19 address for you, sir? | 19 MS. GIRARD: Have you had an opportunity to look |
| 20 Mr. MCLAURIN: It's JMclaurin@EYA.com. So it's | 20 at the plans in relation to the surrounding area? And can |
| 21 first initial J, McLaurin; M-C-L-A-U-R-I-N @EYA.com. | 21 you opine as to the compatibility of the proposed massing of |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. | 22 the structures compared to the surrounding community? |
| 23 And can you please raise your right hand? | 23 Mr. MCLAURIN: Sure. Sure. Yes, I have had a |
| 24 Do you swear or affirm under penalties of perjury | 24 chance to look at it and I would love to talk about it |
| 25 that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the | 25 because I think we have a pretty good story to tell when it |
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| 1 while truth and nothing but the truth? | 1 comes to that. And I would just like to mention, Mr. Lester |
| 2 MR. MCLAURIN: Yes, I do. | 2 in his testimony kind of alluded to in and Mr. Sloan alluded |
| 3 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Ms. | 3 to it as well too. But when we create infill communities |
| 4 Girard, the witness is yours. | 4 like this which have surrounding context around our immediate |
| 5 MS. GIRARD: Great. Mr. McLaurin, what's your | 5 site, it's important that we focus on compatibility. |
| 6 occupation? | $6 \quad$ And one aspect of compatibility is height and |
| 7 MR. MCLAURIN: I'man architect. | 7 scale. So I think we, after studying the property, we come |
| 8 MS. GIRARD: And how long have you been engaged in | 8 up with a land plan that I believe addresses that. And if I |
| 9 this occupation? | 9 could ask that we pull up Exhibit 62, I would like to start |
| 10 MR. MCLAURIN: I graduated in 1987 from Virginia | 10 with -- and I'm on page -- PDF page 4 and figure 1, which is |
| 11 Tech with a bachelor of architecture and have been practicing | 11 the vicinity/staff defined neighborhood map. And I would |
| 12 ever since. So about 35 years. | 12 like to start by just talking about the surrounding community |
| 13 MS. GIRARD: And I would just know that Mr. | 13 that's highlighted in blue |
| 14 McLaurin's resume is in the record as Exhibit 49C. Mr. | 14 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: What page is that, |
| 15 McLaurin, have you ever testified before any planning boards, | 15 sir? |
| 16 OZAHs, any -- as an expert witness in architecture? | 16 Mr. MCLAURIN: I'm on Exhibit 62. It is PDF page |
| 17 <br> MR. MCLAURIN: Yes. I have not been in front of | 17 4, which is page 3 of the exhibit. And it's figure -- there |
| 18 the OZAH in Montgomery County, but I have just testified in | 18 you go. It's that figure right there. So immediately I |
| 19 essentially every other jurisdiction, board, mayor and | 19 would just like to talk about the surrounding context. And |
| 20 council as appropriate. They all vary, but Montgomery | 20 you can see to the north side of Strathmore are single-family |
| 21 County, Fairfax County, City of Fairfax, City of Rockville, | 21 homes. Predominantly those homes are single-story as they |
| 22 City of Alexandria, as well as other jurisdictions up and | 22 front Strathmore, with a setback of approximately 33. |
| 23 down the East Coast. | 23 And when I say setback, I want to qualify it from |
| 24 MS. GIRARD: Then I would like to move Mr. | 24 the building face to the curb. The legal zoning setback |
| 25 McLaurin's admission as an expert in architecture. | 25 would be measured probably to the property line. But that's |


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| 1 an imaginary line that people cannot perceive in reality. So | 1 setback, again, measuring to the proposed curb, not the |
| 2 I like to, in discussions of height and scale, I like to talk | 2 existing curb, but what would be the proposed curb. And the |
| 3 a | 3 heights there are two stories with roof abo |
| 4 vary, but they are sort of in the range of about 30 feet. So | 4 Brandywine building further to the east is a three-story |
| 5 single-story and about 30 feet along S | 5 structure with roof, but as it goes further to the east, Mr. |
| 6 Then when you to the block towards its | 6 Sloan testified the grade of the road steps up and continu |
| 7 between Stillwater Avenue and Orleans Way, they bump up to | 7 up, but the building does not go up w |
| 8 two stories and you see the sides there that kind of ori | $8 \quad$ So the building is actually cut into the gra |
| 9 towards Strathmore and then the drop back down to the west | 9 there. And then there is a retaining wall between the |
| 10 Orleans to single-story. The Symphony Park community is fo | 10 building and Strathmore. So that delta in grade is about 1 |
| 11 stories in height. And I would note it's three stories with | 11 feet from the entrance of Brandywine up towards that |
| 12 a roof, but that roof design is of a mansard form, which has | 12 northeast corner of the Brandywine building closest to |
| 13 a very vertical face to it. So it does increase the | 13 Strathmore right there. That's right. It's about 12 feet. |
| 14 perceived height along Strathmore. | 14 So you essentially lose a story in height as is perceived |
| 15 It's not a two-story with what we would call | 15 from Strathmore in the great goes up, but the building stays |
| 16 laid-back gable. It has front facing gables and then mansard | 16 con |
| 17 roofs which really do truly give it more of a four-story | 17 So what is generally a three-story building where |
| 18 façade there. And the setbacks along for that portion of | 18 the roof really kind of gives you a perceived height of about |
| 19 Symphony Park along Strathmore range from about 40 to 50 | 19 two stories plus roof along that road. So we feel like |
| 20 feet. | 20 that's very compatible over there on that side. And that |
| 21 And then if we | 21 setback of the building is in excess of 50 feet. I think |
| 22 Angela Hall is a single-story, but that is being demolished. | 22 it's about 54 feet measured to the curb. There is a turret |
| 23 And then further down towards the east is the Holy Cross | 23 element on the northwest corner of that which projects into |
| 24 church and school, which is single to multiple story, two25 story, but even the single-story has volume. Being the | 24 that setback a little bit. So maybe it's mid-40s. I don't 25 know for sure. |
| 233 | 235 |
| 1 nature of a church it has a very large | 1 I'm not the architect of record for that building, |
| 2 And I would like to say I'm speaking in height in | 2 nor the designer, but we have coordinated with Brandywine's |
| 3 terms of stories because in feet I have not surveyed any of | 3 architect on that. As that footprint gets to be refined we |
| 4 these existing properties. I am familiar with the Symphony | 4 can probably get more precise numbers later in the |
| 5 Park community in that they have 10 foot ceilings. I was | 5 entitlement process. But generally speaking, the bulk of |
| 6 actually the architect of record before I came over to EYA, | 6 that building face is about 54 feet setback. I think that |
| 7 for Symphony Park. So I am familiar. They have taller | 7 kind of addresses the compatibility. |
| 8 ceiling heights. But without that information directly | 8 Our homes internal to the site are four stories, |
| 9 accessible to me, I like to speak in height in terms of | 9 but there are three stories with a setback loff. So the |
| 10 stories, not in terms of feet. And then the -- and so the | 10 street face is a three-story façade with a loft that setback |
| 11 Holy Cross school has the church facilities which are multi- | 11 anywhere from 10 to 12 feet from the front, but they do end |
| 12 height. | 12 up at a four-story over there. There is grade which will |
| 13 If we can go to the -- I think it's probably bes | 13 affect that where we might be burying some of those levels. |
| 14 to go to Exhibit 35, which is the grading and utility | 14 So the perceived height is a little bit lower. But again, |
| 15 exhibit. I would just like to point out, pursuant to some o | 15 that's internal to the site and we start to measure the |
| 16 what Mr. Sloan testified towards -- I will wait for it to | 16 Brandywine building as compatible to our townhomes across |
| 17 come up on the screen. The idea of this land plan is to | 17 Street A there. But I think that's really what I want to get |
| 18 adjust compatibility with the adjoining, surrounding | 18 across. If you have any questions -- |
| 19 community, which is why we largely located single-family | 19 MS. GIRARD: Mr. Lester -- or Mr. Lester. I'm |
| 20 detached homes along Strathmore. And those are two stories | 20 sorry. Mr. McLaurin, could you please walk us through the |
| 22 purposes, range from about 40 to 50 feet. | MR. MCLAURIN: Oh, yeah. |
| 23 It's a little tighter on the west side and then | 23 MS. GIRARD: Exhibit 58B. |
| 24 extends out as you go -- travel further east along | 24 MR. MCLAURIN: Thanks for bringing that up, Ms. |
| 25 Strathmore. So we are in the range of about 40 to 50 feet in | 25 Girard. So ifI could ask you to pull up Exhibit 58B. And |


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| 1 these are conceptual renderings. We are still very early in | 1 can see in the key plan on the bottom right, as you would |
| 2 the process, but this is not only to begin the conversation | 2 leave the Academy of Holy Cross specifically and then what |
| 3 of architectural style, although it will continue to evolve | 3 the community might look like, what the street might feel |
| 4 later on, but it is really to have this conversation | 4 like, what the sidewalk system looks like. And then you |
| 5 height and scale. | 5 would see the nature trail as it terminates to the sidewalk, |
| 6 And you can see this is a view -- you see on the | 6 directly in the foreground. You see our townhomes on the |
| 7 bottomright hand corner is a key plan legend which shows you | 7 background on the left-hand side, again, that three-story |
| 8 the view. So we are kind of across the northern side of | 8 façade directly adjacent to the street with a setback loft |
| 9 Strathmore looking to the south at our main entrance. And | 9 level. And then you will see the three-story Brandywine |
| 10 you see the single-family homes on the right-hand side. | 10 building on the right-hand side over there. |
| 11 That's the two-story with roof form there. And then you see | 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And then going |
| 12 the Brandywine which kind of gives you the idea of the two | 12 the slide labeled image 5 and description of image 5. |
| 13 stores on the left-hand side. I know it gets kind of cut off | 13 Mr. MCLAURIN: So this is a view as you would look |
| 14 a little bit there, but you will see the three stories as you | 14 south east on the site, sort of if you were on one of our |
| 15 go down the street. | 15 roof terraces, on one of our front garage townhomes on the |
| 16 If you proceed to the two slides in advance you | 16 left-hand side of the site. And you are overlooking the park |
| 17 will see a higher -- I think you might have gone too far | 17 space and the height and massing of the townhomes, again |
| 18 I'm on page 3 now. There you go. | 18 being a three-story façade with the loft setback. But the |
| 19 You will see a higher view of that. It was | 19 idea is to kind of show scale of that park space. And then |
| 20 important for us in these -- the development of these | 20 the stream valley buffer on the right hand side with of the |
| 21 renderings both to give as best as we can inaccurate | 21 townhomes in the background. |
| 22 depiction of the road dimension, the Strathmore Road | 22 And I believe that's the last rendering. Again, |
| 23 dimension, as well as the green buffer and then the service | 23 these are very conceptual. We are super early in the |
| 24 road. So we elevated a little bit in height to not only | 24 process, but at least there is an idea of height and scale in |
| 25 continue to show the height and scale of our proposed | 25 the renderings. Then we always try to make sure we across |
| 237 | 239 |
| 1 development, but also of the Strathmore road there. | 1 the idea of quality of materials and quality of design, even |
| 2 And then there is some -- a couple about the | 2 though the design will continue to evolve, but it's important |
| 3 renderings internal to the site if you're interested. But | 3 to get that across as early as possible. |
| 4 you know, they don't directly address this issue of | 4 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. Mr. McLaurin, in your |
| 5 compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood. | 5 expert opinion as an architect are the proposed use is |
| 6 MS. GIRARD: I think we can scroll through them, | 6 suitable for the site and compatible with the existing and |
| 7 just so they have an explanation in the record. I think that | 7 improved adjacent development? |
| 8 would be helpful. | 8 MR. MCLAURIN: Yes, I believe they are. |
| 9 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: So we are scrolling | 9 MS. GIRARD: And in your expert opinion as an |
| 10 through. Let me just get the number. Exhibit 58B. We are | 10 architect, will the proposed development adversely affect the |
| 11 currently on page 3 going through -- which is labeled as | 11 character of the surrounding neighborhood? |
| 12 description of image 2, going to the description of image 3 | 12 MR. MCLAURIN: No, I really don't think they do. |
| 13 next. | 13 Not only just from the site design standpoint, but also the |
| 14 MR. MCLAURIN: Yeah. So what this is, as you exit | 14 type of homes and buildings that we are providing. |
| 15 the community north towards Strathmore, this is a view of | 15 MS. GIRARD: That's all I have for Mr. McLaurin. |
| 16 what you might see there with the existing neighborhood | 16 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, Ms. |
| 17 beyond the buffer. The Brandywine building would be to the | 17 Girard. Any cross-examination of this witness? We will |
| 18 right and the single-family homes would be to the left. And | 18 start with Mr. Shaffer. |
| 19 the purpose of this was to really give you an idea of scale | 19 MR. SHAFFER: I have no questions at this time. |
| 20 of the street exiting the community, possible signage, the | 20 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. Thank you, |
| 21 median, the landscaping, and then the sidewalk, streetscape | 21 sir. Mr. Burdin? |
| 22 system on either side. | 22 Mr. BURDIN: Yeah, I just have two quick |
| 23 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Scrolling through | 23 questions. |
| 24 to the page that says, description of image 4. | 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And Mr. Burdin, one |
| 25 Mr. MCLAURIN: Right. And so this is a view, you | 25 second. For the benefit of the court reporter, this is Doug |


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| Burdin; D-O-U-G, B-U-R-D-I-N. He is a party of record. <br> MR. BURDIN: Okay. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Go ahead Mr. <br> Burdin. <br> MR. BURDIN: Ms. McLaurin, did you prepare or <br> approve the renderings we were just looking at? <br> MR. MCLAURIN: I did not prepare them. I did <br> approve them <br> MR. BURDIN: Okay. The sidewalk on the north side <br> of Strathmore in the buffer zone that went from Strathmore to the access road, that does not currently exist, correct? <br> MR. MCLAURIN: No, I don't think it does. <br> MR. BURDIN: Okay. And it's not in the proposal; <br> is that correct? <br> MR. MCLAURIN: I will defer. I don't believe it <br> is, but I will defer to one of the experts on the actual <br> technical aspects of the site plan. I don't think we're <br> showing a sidewalk. I think that's the -- that's the bus <br> shelter. That's the paving associated with the bus shelter. <br> MR. BURDIN: Well, if we just -- <br> MR. MCLAURIN: Is it possible to go back to the <br> rendering exhibit? <br> MR. BURDIN: Yeah. It's a sidewalk that goes <br> north from Strathmore to the Strathmore access road making it <br> seem like you can walk across the intersection and easily get | ```sidewalk is existing today. That's right. That sidewalk is there today. I'm looking at it, the plan, Exhibit 35. If that's still up. MR. BURDIN: Okay. Well, I don't want to belabor this. Maybe somebody who lives on Strathmore access can confirm whether or not that south/north sidewalk is there. This is important for potential, later testimony. I'm not just belaboring this point for no reason. MR. MCLAURIN: Okay. I'm looking at an aerial and the sidewalk is showing up on the aerial as well too. MR. BURDIN: Okay. I wasn't, I wasn't sure. I just wanted to make sure. Thank you. That's all I have. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. McLaurin. Ms. Girard, any redirect? MS. GIRARD: No, nothing. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. With that the witness for his testimony. Your next witness, if you have anymore, Ms. Girard. MS. GIRARD: Well I -- MS. BENNETT: May I ask a question? HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I'm sorry Councilwoman Bennett. Yes, what was your question, ma'am? MS. BENNETT: I just want to ask Mr. McLaurin whether EYA considered options to place the care center on the western side and/or more inside of the housing``` |
| to that access road. <br> MR. MCLAURIN: Are you talking a sidewalk on the south side of Strathmore? Or on the north side of Strathmore? <br> MR. BURDIN: North side. <br> MR. MCLAURIN: Well -- <br> MR. BURDIN: To the right of the white car where <br> there is a single person walking toward us. <br> MR. MCLAURIN: That's paving associated with the 0 bus shelter. You will see it does not continue east or west along that road. I believe that's just paving associated with the bus shelter. But I would let Mr. Sloan clarify that later on if there is an opportunity. But -- <br> MR. BURDIN: So you think that sidewalk that's running sidewalk south to north with the little person that's 16 on -- is currently there? <br> MR. MCLAURIN: Oh, south to north? I apologize. <br> I thought you meant parallel to -- <br> MR. BURDIN: No. <br> MR. MCLAURIN: I do not -- I do not know that. I <br> can go and look at a plan. No, I don't -- <br> (Crosstalk) <br> MR. BURDIN: -- that lives on Strathmore access <br> can testify to that later. <br> 25 MR. MCLAURIN: Yeah. Well, it does seem that that | development. <br> MR. MCLAURIN: Yes, we did actually. We felt <br> like, from the standpoint of impact on the western stream valley buffer and from the standpoint of impact on grade, that it was better suited on the location that we are showing it now. But we did create studies and analyze multiple locations for the care center on the site. <br> MS. BENNETT: Thank you. I appreciate it. <br> MR. MCLAURIN: You're welcome. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, ma'am. <br> Ms. Girard, I will turn it back over to you. <br> MS. GIRARD: Yeah, I was just noting, as I did at <br> the beginning, that we intend to recall Mr. Sloan. But I <br> think -- I anticipate we will have to after the opposition <br> has their witnesses anyway. So if it's okay with everyone, I <br> would circulate those exhibits and we just do it all at once <br> when we get our rebuttal. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's fine with <br> me. So we will switch gears and move over to -- we will <br> start with Mr. Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer, now is your opportunity <br> to either give an opening statement if you would like. Or you can call your first witness, sir. <br> MR. SHAFFER: I will give a very brief opening <br> statement and then get straight to the witness. I don't <br> think that the position of the Association or even most of |


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| 1 the citizens opposing this, is that we are opposed to this | 1 work for me to handle on my own, or the members of the |
| 2 development per se. I think our concerns are primarily with | 2 committee to handle on their own. And so I formed an ad hoc |
| 3 traffic and environment. And we would like to see those | 3 committee to study the proposed applications and the plans |
| 4 addressed differently and better, but the proposal that's | 4 (inaudible) Holy Cross and the Applicant were putting forward |
| 5 been presented here. | 5 to the community. |
| 6 But we do believe that if the application were | 6 So we put out a call to our listserv to request |
| 7 approved, it should be with some of the conditions that we | 7 for volunteers and the amount of outreach that I got was, |
| 8 have asked for in our testimony and in our papers so far | 8 quite frankly, very surprising. Dozens and dozens of people |
| 9 So with all that having said, let's -- I will | 9 reached out saying that they were interested in this and were |
| 10 start with the president of our Association, Kip Edwards. | 10 very concerned about it. And we ultimately had about 16 |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And Mr. Shaffer, | 11 members of our community participate regularly in the group |
| 12 when you close, whenever that occurs, please make sure to | 12 that studied the development. So the purpose of the ad hoc |
| 13 list what those conditions might be so that I have a very | 13 committee was to study various demands of subject matter th |
| 14 clear understanding of what additional conditions are being | 14 we received were important to the neighborhood. And the |
| 15 requested by the community. | 15 committee was to report findings to me so that I could |
| 16 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. I will let Mr. Edwards | 16 communicate a position of the neighborhood to the relevant |
| 17 address that as well (inaudible). Thank you. | 17 decision-makers. |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Edwards, there | 18 MR. SHAFFER: And can you describe the findings |
| 19 you are. Sir, please give me your name, your address, and a | 19 that the members of your committee communicated to you? |
| 20 good email address for you, please. | 20 MR. EDWARDS: Sure. So something that became |
| 21 MR. EDWARDS: Good morning. My name is Kip | 21 clear during this process is the fact that, as was |
| 22 Edwards; K-I-P, E-D-W-A-R-D-S. And my address is 5312 Bangor | 22 communicated to me, the planning board staff based their |
| 23 Drive, Kensington, Maryland, 20895. | 23 conclusions and recommendations on traffic reports which the |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And please raise | 24 community felt were inherently flawed. So the first traffic |
| 25 your right hand. | 25 study, as we talked about yesterday, was based on data |
| 245 | 247 |
| $1 \quad$ Do you swear or affirm under penalties of perjury | 1 acquired during the pandemic, sort of at a peak time of the |
| 2 that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the | 2 pandemic when there wasn't much activity. |
| 3 while truth and nothing but the truth? | 3 And that was the prevailing document for many |
| 4 MR. EDWARDS: I do. | 4 months of the planning board process. The original LATR was |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Shaffer, the | 5 then updated in August as was described yesterday, to include |
| 6 witness is yours. | 6 historic data, so pre-pandemic data, at -- I believe it was |
| 7 MR. SHAFFER: Thank you. Mr. Edwards, for who are | 7 DOTs request, just intuiting that this data didn't paint an |
| 8 you testifying today? | 8 accurate picture. |
| 9 MR. EDWARDS: So I am the president of the Garrett | $9 \quad$ The historical counts available were really aged. |
| 10 Park Estates, the White Flint Park Citizens' Association. | 10 They were from five, eight years ago. And so everyone in the |
| 11 And that's who I am testifying for today. | 11 county knows how much traffic has increased in this area |
| 12 MR. SHAFFER: Can you describe what that | 12 since those counts were taken. They were before Pike and |
| 13 association is? | 13 Rose and other developments in the area. So we know that the |
|  | 14 data which formed the basis for both the original LATR and |
| 15 about 650 homes in the Garrett Park Estates, White Flint Park | 15 the updated LATR were flawed because we did our own lay |
| 16 neighborhoods, which of the neighborhoods to the north of the | 16 count, which we can describe in a minute. |
| 17 proposed development. We have our -- the area of the | 17 Some of the other findings of the committee were |
| 18 neighborhood is a long Strathmore Avenue and sort of in the | 18 also important. One of the things that became apparent was |
| 19 corner between Strathmore and Rockville Pike going north. | 19 that the green buffer space along Strathmore Avenue between |
| 20 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. Has the Association and its | 20 Strathmore and Strathmore service road would be a potential |
| 21 members undertaken efforts to analyze the anticipated impact | 21 area for the Applicant to want to encroach upon to develop |
| 22 of this development on their community? | 22 whatever sort of mitigation strategies that they sought. And |
| 23 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. So when we were first notified | 23 that's something that was very important to the group. The |
| 24 about the proposed development last, I believe it was la | 24 notion that the Applicant will relieve the burdens of traffic |
| 25 winter, I decided that it was probably going to be too much | 25 that their development creates by encroaching upon that green |


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| 1 buffer space was very concerning for people. | 1 the morning. |
| 2 Now, other concerns that were brought up probably | 2 And our count was much higher than the numbers |
| 3 just aren't -- well, one of them probably isn't necessarily | 3 used in the August 2021 LATR supplemental report, which is |
| 4 applicable, unfortunately, to this process which was the | 4 what planning board staff ultimately relied on when they met |
| 5 burden on schools. Garrett Park Elementary is already at | 5 their conclusions. The traffic counts we took were from |
| 6 capacity and may be operating overcapacity soon, I believe. | 6 December 13, 2021 at Stillwater Avenue and Strathmore Avenue. |
| 7 And adding what could be -- I think based on the calculations | 7 Our count, according to the Camlytics software, for what our |
| 8 we did was potentially 17 students to Garrett Park Elementary | 8 neighborhood knows is the true a.m. peak period, which is |
| 9 school was very concerning because the school is already | 9 when the school is in session, with at least 1,970 trips, |
| 10 stress | 10 which was 63 percent higher than what the Applicants' |
| 11 And by the time this development comes online it | 11 original -- the traffic site-based -- the Applicants' traffic |
| 12 was going to be probably thousands potentially of other | 12 consultant based in their original analysis and mitigation |
| 13 residents coming online in the area, certainly hundreds. And | 13 strategies on the intersection. I believe it was -- that |
| 14 so that burden on schools was a top priority and a top | 14 intersection was I believe 1,205 trips. |
| 15 concern for people. Also there were -- people take point | 15 Now the Applicant later submitted updated traffic |
| 16 with the development plans as they are now in that they claim | 16 counts for this intersection which were higher than the |
| 17 that it is sort of a recreation focused development and there | 17 original 1,205 trips, but certainly lower than our 1,970 |
| 18 is lots of open space when we just don't see that in the | 18 trips for the intersection. So the neighborhood's opinion is |
| 19 plans. There is I think 0.44 acres devoted to a walking path | 19 the reality is we just don't have an accurate picture of the |
| 20 around the develop | 20 traffic here. And frankly, people just find it hard |
| 21 But I believe that still the plan is not for that | 21 believe that this development will have no impact on traffic |
| 22 to be lit. Correct me if I'm wrong. And so we're just going | 22 along Strathmore Avenue even with the mitigation strategies. |
| 23 to have a dark path next to a stream that is on the rear of | 23 We have thought long and hard about how the |
| 24 the development, which to us is concerning because it creates 25 a potential safety hazard because we would have a dark area | 24 traffic consultant came to this conclusion. And without 25 knowing anything about the software that they used to perform |
| 249 | 251 |
| 1 that is intended for people to walk that would be unlit and | 1 these analytics number which is probably very sophisticated, |
| 2 out of sight to people in the development. | 2 the only thing that we could think of is problems in the |
| 3 concern. | 3 baseline data that they were using, the traffic counts. B |
| $4 \quad$ There were also concerns raised about how ADA | 4 not only with the existing traffic along Strathmore, but also |
| 5 accessible that area was. And of course everyone went back | 5 their assumptions about how many trips this development will |
| 6 to traffic, traffic, traffic. So speaking of which, we did | 6 create during peak periods. |
| 7 our own lay count one morning in December because we believe | $7 \quad$ And remember, the proposed development adds 125 |
| 8 that the data that was underlying the LATR and th | 8 residences. So possibly 250 additional vehicles. |
| 9 supplemental LATR was flawed. | 9 addition to that, I believe there is 150 resident assisted |
| 10 MR. SHAFFER: So can you describe how you did that | 10 living facility, with daily visitors, and maybe 50 employees. |
| 11 study and what means you used? | 11 I forget what exactly they said yesterday. You know, 24 hour |
| 12 MR. EDWARDS: Sure. So we are, I should note for | 12 staffing. Probably frequent emergency medical response, |
| 13 the record, not traffic consultants. We are not experts in | 13 frequent deliveries. This is going to be a heavily used a |
| 14 traffic studies. We have learned a lot over the last six | 14 commercial facility there. |
| 15 months or so, but basically we bought a camera that was an | 15 So with 250 vehicles in the residential areas |
| 16 IP-based camera that we set up on the porch of a committee | 16 potentially, assuming one or two per house, plus the staff |
| 17 members home at the corner of Stillwwater and Strathmore right | 17 that is going to work at the senior living facility, this |
| 18 where the main entrance to the Holy Cross Academy is. | 18 could mean more than 300 additional vehicles making multiple |
| 19 We initially wanted to count vehicles ourselves, | 19 trips a day. That's a significant added burden to an already |
| 20 but realized there were too voluminous for us to manually | 20 overburdened road. We already have, frankly, school buses |
| 21 count accurately. And so I purchased a traffic counting | 21 making illegal maneuvers to access the service road to avoid |
| 22 software service called Camlytics. That's; | 22 traffic during morning rush. |
| 23 C-A-M-L-Y-T-I-C-S. And the soffware uses machine learning to | 23 And we know many of our residents are trapped in |
| 24 count cars which enter and exit the frame. We did this for 25 one hour period from 7:20 in the morning I believe to 8:20 in | 24 the neighborhood during morning and the evening rush with no 25 ability to access Strathmore. We are often locked into our |


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| 1 neighborhood until a good Samaritan just decides to lead us | 1 submissions with relation to its proximity Metro and MARC |
| 2 into line. And this isn't just our perception, by the way. | 2 train. One of the prevailing things we kept hearing from |
| 3 The Applicant's own data shows that Strathmore Avenue is | 3 planning board staff and the Applicant was that this fits |
| 4 already overburdened. The traffic study submitted by the | 4 within the county's push to have residences close to Metro. |
| 5 Applicant's consultant appeared to acknowledge significant -- | 5 And we think that's great. There should be residences close |
| 6 I believe they said six times the Maryland SHA standard for | 6 to Met |
| 7 morning peak hour congestion. | 7 Unfortunately, by not creating a path to access |
| $8 \quad$ But somehow adding hundreds of vehicles and a | 8 Tuckerman or even preferably a road to access Tuckerman Lane |
| 9 senior living facility won't result in any additional | 9 in the rear of the neighborhood, the actual walk times to the |
| 10 congestion. It just doesn't seem accurate to us. So that's | 10 Metro put it in reality much further away from the Metro than |
| 11 the perception for the neighborhood. And that was sort of | 11 it looks on the map. As the crow flies, this development is |
| 12 the -- those were some of the key findings that we made. | 12 incredibly close to the Metro and in line with all the plans |
| 13 MR. SHAFFER: Can you describe any additional | 13 about smart growth. But without access on foot to Tuckerman |
| 14 concerns that the neighborhood has in addition to the traffic | 14 Lane, the walk times to the Metro will be much, much longer |
| 15 issue and safety issue you just presented? | 15 them reported in the Applicant's submissio |
| 16 MR. EDWARDS: Sure. So there were environmental | 16 The Applicant has suggested that it only takes 10 |
| 17 concerns that were raised by the community. So this is a | 17 minutes to walk from the development to Metro and to the |
| 18 dense development and it removes one of the areas few last | 18 train station in Garrett Park. We've walked -- members of |
| 19 large green spaces next to wetlands and a stream. And if you | 19 the community have walked both starting from the Holy Cross |
| 20 look at the 2018 Grosvenor minor master plan you will see | 20 main entrance and walked both routes at a relatively fast |
| 21 that this area was blocked out and green. It was designed to | 21 pace, they said. These were healthy adults. And the actual |
| 22 be -- it was intended to be a -- I believe they called it a | 22 walking time by an average walker is much closer to 15 |
| 23 school and civic use, surrounded by what would be residences | 23 minutes in the best of weather. |
| 24 and new commercial, I believe CRA zoned property above | 24 So for those residents in the back of the |
|  | 25 development, the walk would be even longer to both stations, |
| 253 | 255 |
| 1 According to the EPA, I believe there is no | 1 possibly more like 20 minutes. It's also a very steep |
| 2 baseline water quality data for that wetland area, and nor is | 2 incline. So in the summer it's -- when it's humid and 100 |
| 3 there a baseline water quality data for the streamrunning | 3 degrees in the area, this is not going to be a very |
| 4 through the property which will undoubtedly catch sedimentary | 4 attractive walk to the Metro. |
| 5 runoff during construction and will absorb nearly all of the | 5 The employees of the assisted living facility I |
| 6 runoff caused by the massive amount of new non-permeable | 6 should note, would have an even longer walk to the Metro. |
| 7 service area created by the proposed development. So we are | 7 And MARC train is not really a feasible commuting option |
| 8 very concerned about potential environmental impacts of the | 8 every day for many of those employees just because of the |
| 9 zoning change. | 9 times that they -- that their shifts start. And so, yeah, |
| 10 I think the neighborhood's downstream too of the | 10 the -- if the Applicant had just planned to add a footpath or |
| 11 stream, which we are not, should be concerned as well for | 11 a community entrance to Tuckerman Lane or an entrance to the |
| 12 storm water drainage. I know they -- I don't think they have | 12 school on Tuckerman Lane, a lot of our community's concerns |
| 13 participated meaningfully in this process, but I think that's <br> 14 something that should be considered. We have not seen, I | 13 would have been assuaged. But they didn't. <br> 14 <br> And so this has been the biggest -- probably the |
| 15 don't believe, any documents reflecting with precision the | 15 biggest issue that has been raised over and over again. It's |
| 16 amount of impermeable surface area that will replace the | 16 why is there no access to Tuckerman Lane. And the answers we |
| 17 green space. | 17 keep getting all seem to sort of dance around the issue that |
| 18 And you know, this isn't just a convenient talking | 18 it would just be, quite frankly, expensive. It would be |
| 19 point for us either. Garrett Park is a very environmentally | 19 expensive to put a walking path due to the terrain. And it |
| 20 focused neighborhood. I believe one of the -- the town has a | 20 would be even more expensive to put a road. That dichotomy |
| 21 head arborist. It's intended to be kind of like a living | 21 of what we know the answer really is and the talking points |
| 22 Arboretum where people are signed by trees and green space. | 22 that we hear just has, quite frankly, rubbed some of the |
| 23 So this is very important for people. | 23 members of the community the wrong way. |
| 24 Another concern that people brought up related to | 24 So this development in many people's opinion in |
| 25 just what we perceived as inaccuracies in the Applicant's | 25 many members of the community, it is just too dense for |


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| Strathmore to support, especially when you consider the cumulative effect of all the other developments which are coming online in the near future. <br> MR. SHAFFER: So as I indicated in my opening, we're not necessarily opposed to this concept. What conditions do you believe would make this project more acceptable to the community you represent? <br> MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. So in our written testimony we submitted, I believe six requested stipulations. So -and I can go through them. <br> MR. SHAFFER: Yeah, please do. <br> MR. EDWARDS: Stipulation one was, if the hearing <br> examiner recommends approval of the LMA, we believe it should <br> only be done on condition that all documentation for any <br> future development materials be provided in an accessible format for the visually impaired. This has been an issue for us and is really hindered our ability to represent ourselves we believe, in an effective manner. <br> Our second stipulation -- well, yeah. Our second <br> stipulation is if the hearing examiner recommends approval of <br> the LMA, it should only be done on condition that measures to address cut through traffic in our neighborhood on Flanders <br> Avenue and Stillwater be built in the fiture development <br> plans. Such measures might include forbidding nonresidents from entering our neighborhood during peak traffic times, | already zip down. But we also want to make sure that the proposed new turn lanes or any of the traffic abatement measures that are part of these plans are not created by carving into this green buffer zone. <br> We certainly don't want to see the loss of trees or shrubs along this buffer, both of which -- if we were to take those trees and shrubs out, it would bring a lot of traffic noise and just car pollution significantly closer to the homes there that face Strathmore Avenue. The fifth requested circulation was that if they hearing examiner recommends approval of the LMA, it should only be done on condition that the new traffic lights -- or that new traffic lights are installed as Stillwater and Strathmore as well as 4 Flanders and Rockville Pike to facilitate safe entry and exit to and from our neighborhood. <br> There are approximately 650 homes in Garrett Park Estates, White Flint Park, and a very modestly estimated 1,000 vehicles in the Garrett Park Estates, White Flint Park neighborhood that are associated with these homes. These vehicles leave the neighborhood either by Flanders Avenue or <br> 21 Stillwater Avenue on either side (inaudible) and Rockville <br> 22 Pike. So we are requesting the traffic lights located at <br> 23 these intersections to facilitate safe vehicular and <br> 24 pedestrian entry and exit from Garrett Park Estates, White <br> 25 Flint Park. |
| potentially the addition of speed bumps or speed cameras on Stillwater to deter dangerous driving. <br> And a third request is stipulation was we think this development needs an actual park. The proposed plans reserve very little available green space and expects families to leave their new neighborhood really to access our neighborhood's already heavily used playgrounds nearby. So we believe that approval should be contingent on the <br> 9 Applicant incorporating an ADA compliant accessible park, 10 large and appropriate enough for this intergenerational 1 community. <br> I mean, right now we have a walking path which is 13 in -- faces the back of a lot of the townhome and terminates 14 into a lawn area with some seating. And I know it will 15 probably look nice, but it's not a park. And it's not large 16 enough for this development. The fourth requested 17 stipulation was if the hearing examiner recommends approval 18 of the LMA it should be done on a condition that the future 19 development preserves the existing green buffer along 20 Strathmore Avenue. <br> 21 <br> So the homes along Strathmore Avenue access road 22 on the north side of the street are separated from the <br> 23 traffic and road noise by this green buffer zone with trees 24 and shrubs. Residents do not want to see spillover traffic 25 on this narrow access road. It's a one-way road which people | Placing any traffic light at the new main entrance <br> to the proposed development without some sort of signalized control at these intersections could result in the residence of Garret Park, White Flint Park being unable to exit our neighborhood because the red light is going to stop there at the main entrance and backup traffic, which it already does. It backs up bumper-to-bumper, standstill traffic. Nobody is moving during peak traffic times. <br> I lied. There were seven requested stipulations. <br> This is requested stipulation six, approval of the LMA should include a prohibition of commencement of construction if projected overcrowding at any school which the development would feed into exceeds 120 percent this is intended to sort of reinstate in a very -- in a generous way, the freeze on development that the county council had lifted previously which prohibited development in the clusters where schools were in excess of 120 percent capacity. How we can rightly build a development that's going to add students into a cluster of schools where there would be overcrowding in excess of 120 percent, it's just not right. <br> Our last requested stipulation says that approval <br> of the element to be conditioned on the inclusion of a rear <br> 23 entrance and exit either to the community or to the Holy <br> 24 Cross Academy, and a footpath on to Tuckerman Lane. We think <br> 25 this simple addition with significantly ease traffic burdens |


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| 1 on Strathmore Avenue and improve the neighborhood's access to | 1 that in the right-of-way that separates the project from the |
| 2 transit and the future commercial space at Grosvenor Metro, | 2 access lane. |
| 3 Grosvenor/Strathmore Metro station. It's a win-win for | 3 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. And then can you repeat the |
| 4 policy and our future neigh | 4 question then? |
| 5 I should note that we sincerely appreciated all of | 5 MS. GIRARD: My question is, if the State Highway |
| 6 the interactions that we've had with planning board staff | 6 Administration or someone came through and said if we do |
| 7 OZAH and the staff. Everybody has been extremely | 7 these improvements, this project aside, it will enhance -- it |
| 8 professio | 8 will greatly improve upon the congestion that you are |
| 9 that this is not our full-time jobs, we are not professional | 9 experiencing today, would the impacts to the median then be |
| 10 developers, we do not understand the county code and all of | 10 acceptable to the community? |
| 11 the factors that go into these decisions. So we appreciate | 11 MR. EDWARDS: I think that the -- based on the |
| 12 getting the opportunity to communicate our observations and | 12 fury of response that I got when it became clear yesterday |
| 13 the ability to raise some of these facts so that the hearing | 13 that some of the plans were going to impact even a couple |
| 14 examiner can make a decision with all the facts. That's all | 14 feet of that buffer, I think the community would be quite |
| 15 we want. | 15 upset if any of that buffer were to be touched. |
| 16 MR. SHAFFER: Is there anything else that I have | 16 MS. GIRARD: So they would prefer to keep traffic |
| 17 missed, Mr. Edwards? | 17 levels as they are rather than add a lane (inaudible)? |
| 18 MR. EDWARDS: I don't think so. I think some of | 18 MR. EDWARDS: I shouldn't testify to what the -- |
| 19 the other witnesses can testify to their observations about | 19 that question wasn't asked during the committee |
| 20 living in the neighborhood and some of the impacts that they | 20 deliberations. And so I shouldn't speak on behalf of the |
| 21 perceive the development will have. | 21 community as to |
| 22 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. I have no further questions | 22 MS. GIRARD: Okay. You mentioned the trails not |
| 23 at this time | 23 being lit and being dark at night. Are you aware of how |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, very | 24 Montgomery County Parks handles their trails, natural trails? |
| 25 much. Ms. Girard, any cross-examination of this witness? | 25 MR. EDWARDS: No. |
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| 1 MR. EDWARDS: Erin, you are on mute. | 1 MS. GIRARD: Are they lit? |
| 2 MS. GIRARD: Sorry. Yes, you would think I would | 2 MR. EDWARDS: No, I don't know about Montgomery |
| 3 know that by now. I apologize in advance if I jump all over | 3 County Parks. I assume some are or some aren't. But acro |
| 4 the place. I take frantic notes. And so we may be jumping | 4 the stream on the Symphony Park trails, those are lit at |
| 5 around your testimony. But you had mentioned in the median | 5 night. And so we think that keeping the trails lit on the |
| 6 in Strathmore Avenue. Are you aware, is that within the | 6 other side of the stream would be in line with the community. |
| 7 right-of-way? Or is that publicly owned? Privately owned? | $7 \quad$ MS. GIRARD: Are you aware of whether those trails |
| 8 MR. EDWARDS: I don't -- I don't know the answer | 8 on the Symphony Park side and that lighting is within the |
| 9 to that question, but I believe some of the other -- the | 9 stream valley buffer? |
| 10 later witnesses may know the answer to that | 10 MR. EDWARDS: I don't know. |
| 11 MS. GIRARD: Okay. And are you aware of the | 11 MS. GIRARD: And you mentioned that the trail will |
| 12 testimony yesterday by the traffic consultant about how the | 12 not be visible from the dwelling units. What are you basing |
| 13 installation of turn lanes and the correction of the | 13 that on? |
| 14 alignment as Stillwater and the traffic signal would improve | 14 MR. EDWARDS: I was basing that off planning board |
| 15 upon existing conditions even without the development? | 15 staff commentary that I saw in some exchanges that appeared |
| 16 MR. EDWARDS: I'm aware that that's what the | 16 to go between planning board staff and the Applicant where |
| 17 traffic consultant stated | 17 they raised this concern about the trail being in the rear of |
| 18 MS. GIRARD: So is it your position that even | 18 the townhome sticks and there would be sort of-- I believe |
| 19 these -- development aside, even if these improvements could | 19 there was supposed to be some sort of wall or some sort of |
| 20 fix the existing traffic issues, you would not want them done | 20 fencing that would in their eyes make the trail less visible |
| 21 because they could impact that median? | 21 to the people living there. And it would also just be in the |
| 22 MR. EDWARDS: Are you talking about the median in | 22 rear and unlit. So that's what all that commentary comes |
| 23 between the lanes for people who cross the street on | 23 from. |
| 24 Strathmore Avenue? | 24 MS. GIRARD: But you are -- are you saying that |
| 25 MS. GIRARD: The median that you were referring to | 25 you are or are not aware of any responses that the Applicant |


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| 1 may have submitted to comments to staff made in that regard? | 1 anticipated emergency responses based on their experience |
| 2 MR. EDWARDS: I believe I saw some responses, but | 2 with other properties? |
| 3 I don't believe I was super impressed. But if there are | 3 MR. EDWARDS: I can't recall it or recite it, but |
| 4 plans to make it more visible or make it more lit that I'm | 4 I'm sure she has accurate dat |
| 5 not aware of, I would be -- I would love to hear them. | 5 MS. GIRARD: And |
| 6 MS. GIRARD: On the traffic counts, did you | 6 MR. EDWARDS: I have no reason to doubt wheth |
| 7 actually count the cars in the video? Or did you just rely | 7 |
| 8 on the software? | 8 MS. GIRARD: Correct. And as far as -- I guess my |
| 9 MR. EDWARDS: We did some -- I did some sampling | 9 question is, in questioning the traffic, in addition to |
| 10 to test if it seemed accurate. And in the sampling that I | 10 relying on your own calculations, you've made assumptions |
| 11 did it did seem quite accurate. I did not count all of the | 11 regarding the frequency of emergency responses, that all |
| 12 vehicles for the entire hour | 12 staff would drive, that every house would generate two trips |
| 13 MS. GIRARD: When you say sampling, can you be | 13 during the peak hour. Is this just your own opinion? Or is |
| 14 more specific? | 14 this -- did you consult with a traffic engineer? |
| 15 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. So for like the first five | 15 MR. EDWARDS: No, we did not consult -- we |
| 16 minutes or so, just looking back on it, I would say the first | 16 considered consulting with a traffic engineer. Our budget |
| 17 five minutes or so of the video I sort of count of the cars | 17 right now, I think we have about \$3,400 in the bank. And we |
| 18 and I looked at the timestamps on the soffware saying new | 18 have -- and it's actually -- I need to submit an expense |
| 19 objects were seen. And it seemed to line up quite | 19 report for the camera. So it's really probably more like |
| 20 accurately. | 203,100 . So no, we just were able to fund a traffic |
| 21 MS. GIRARD: Did you hear Ms. Wagner's testimony | 21 consultant. So all those assumptions aren't -- we weren't |
| 22 yesterday that they also reviewed the first 10 minutes in | 22 creating a new calculation to challenge the traffic studies |
| 23 slow-mo and found it to be greatly exaggerated? | 23 just because we aren't in a position to do so. |
| 24 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. I did hear that. I was | 24 One of our concerns about the emergency response |
| 25 curious to hear how exaggerated it was. I didn't hear any | 25 was just with the design of the entrance. We just worried |
| 265 | 267 |
| 1 actual hard numbers. | 1 that the -- like big fire trucks, if they were to respond, |
| 2 MS. GIRARD: I would have to go back as to | 2 weren't going to want to pull into the roundabout area and |
| 3 whether -- I thought she did give a percentage, but we can | 3 may just park on the main entrance and just further backup |
| 4 certainly have her address that. You also mentioned in your | 4 traffic on Strathmore Avenue. That's just one of our |
| 5 testimony -- | 5 concerns. Now maybe planning board staff and your designers |
| 6 MR. EDWARDS: Can I say, by the way, I don't -- | 6 and Brandywine, they may think that that's not an issue, and |
| 7 I'm not a traffic person. I'm not a traffic expert. And I | 7 it very well may not be. But that was something that people |
| 8 never used the software before. It was a tool that we | 8 talked about. |
| 9 thought would be beneficial and add some colo | 9 MS. GIRARD: So was the bulk of your -- you |
| 10 MS. GIRARD: Right. I guess (inaudible) | 10 mentioned numerous times in your testimony, perception. So |
| 11 MR. EDWARDS: It may be -- it may be over or | 11 what efforts were made to try to marry people's perceptions |
| 12 under, but I'm not sort of swearing to the accuracy of | 12 with what may be the facts? |
| 13 Camlytics software. So if someone did count it, which maybe | 13 MR. EDWARDS: Well frankly, people's perceptions I |
| 14 should be done to create a super accurate count, that should | 14 think are quite accurate here. We are -- we may not be |
| 15 be done. | 15 traffic express, but we are experts in Strathmore Avenue. We |
| 16 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: It was acknowledged | 16 go on that -- I've lived here for five years and I travel on |
| 17 that it was a lay software program that was used to enhance | 17 it probably two or three times a day. And I've been on it |
| 18 the community's understanding of the traffic impact. So it's | 18 probably 1,500 times. And so there was no real effort to |
| 19 certainly -- it's part of the evidentiary process, but it' | 19 marry people's perception to some sort of scientific |
| 20 included as a lay estimate based upon the community's desire | 20 assessment until someone had the bright idea of setting up a |
| 21 to understand better the traffic count. | 21 camera and counting the cars. That was the closest I think |
|  | 22 we can do actually marrying our perception to some sort of |
| 23 on top of what you perceived to be the existing traffic | 23 actual sort of hard number or hard science. Is that your |
| 24 there would probably be frequent emergency responses. Were | 24 question? |
| 25 you aware of the testimony of Ms. Bacon yesterday about the | 25 MS. GIRARD: Generally, yes. You also mentioned |



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| 1 than we think the other -- than the neighborhoods in the | 1 capacity? |
| 2 area. Certainly Symphony Park, we think, has a lot more sort | 2 MR. EDWARDS: New? How new? I'm aware that th |
| 3 of usable space. It's just our perception. | 3 lifted the 120 percent - |
| 4 MS. GIRARD: Okay. With regard to the traffic | 4 MS. GIRARD: Last year. |
| 5 signals, you had mentioned wanting -- was in two or three? | 5 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. So the reason for us -- well, |
| 6 was not -- | 6 I can just answer the question or tell you the reason why we |
| 7 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. So it's -- on Strathm | 7 want th |
| 8 it's -- and this is pending the expertise of the planners and | 8 MS. GIRARD: I guess my question is -- right. My |
| 9 the State Highway Administration and of course the Applicant | 9 question is, so you are asking for a stricter standard to be |
| 10 A traffic signal at Stillwater and Strathmore, which is where | 10 applied to this specific case than is applied everywhere else |
| 11 the current entrance to the school is, is one of our | 11 in the county under the new growth policy? |
| 12 requests. And then also on Flanders Avenue and Rockville | 12 MR. EDWARDS: Well, yes. Just because the county |
| 13 Pike because we believe that there's going to be more cut | 13 lifted the prohibition doesn't mean that it relieves the |
| 14 through traffic for our neighborhood | 14 county of its -- of its responsibility to ensure that schools |
| 15 development. | 15 aren't so overcapacity that it affects the quality of |
| 16 So we want a -- that's the road that people would | 16 education that the children get. So just because they lifted |
| 17 access to cut through our neighborhood to avoid traffic on | 17 the moratorium doesn't mean we think that we can abandon |
| 18 Strathmore and to avoid the left turn lane backups from | 18 responsibilities during planning processes. |
| 19 Rockville Pike south onto Strathmore. So a signal there to | 19 MS. GIRARD: Are you aware of the adequate public |
| 20 facilitate safe entry and exit from our neighborhood on | 20 facilities ordinance and how it's administered with regard to |
| 21 Flanders is one thing we are requesting. | 21 school capacity? |
| 22 MS. GIRARD: And are you aware of how the State | 22 MR. EDWARDS: I'm not, no. |
| 23 Highway Administration considers whether traffic signals are | 23 MS. GIRARD: Okay. And did you testified that |
| 24 warranted on their roa | 24 county council regarding your concerns when they were going |
| 25 MR. EDWARDS: I'm not, unfortunately. | 25 through the growth policy? |
| 273 | 275 |
| 1 MS. GIRARD: And is it your testimony that the new | 1 MR. EDWARDS: Not during the growth policy. I've |
| 2 light where proposed will not create sufficient breaks to | 2 testified and members of our community have testified and |
| 3 facilitate people getting in and out of the neighborhood as | 3 participated in various proceedings of the county council. |
| 4 was testified to by Ms. Wagner? | 4 MS. GIRARD: But you didn't specifically raise |
| 5 MR. EDWARDS: Already there is backups that block | 5 this when they were adopting the new growth policy? |
| 6 Stillwater Avenue. If you're going on Stillwater south to | 6 MR. EDWARDS: That's correct, no. |
| 7 Strathmore and the needed to turn left, already backups occur | 7 MS. GIRARD: I believe that's all I have. Thank |
| 8 so that people are locked in the neighborhood. And that goes | 8 you. |
| 9 all the way down to, I believe the next signal is Kenilworth. | 9 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, very |
| 10 And so traffic will back up all the way from Kenilworth to | 10 much. Mr. Burdin, any questions for Mr. Edwards? |
| 11 there. So by putting a traffic light for the down closer to | 11 MR. BURDIN: Yeah, just one about your counting of |
| 12 Stillwater at the main entrance of the community, we believe | 12 the cars. The -- I believe the traffic consultant yesterday |
| 13 that that will only cause traffic to back up even more and | 13 criticized your count because it was not in accordance with |
| 14 lock in the neighbors on Stillwater and people living in | 14 the guidelines. I believe that's because you did it on a |
| 15 Jolly and Symphony Park too. | 15 Monday. Did you do your study on a Monday? |
| 16 MS. GIRARD: In this again is your perception of | 16 MR. EDWARDS: We did do the study on a Monday. |
| 17 what would be appropriate? You haven't done any studies to | 17 Afterwards we found out that I guess the standard say you |
| 18 determine whether that would be appropriate - | 18 don't -- if it's going to be like an official count, which |
| 19 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, ma'am. | 19 this was never intended to be. I guess you do it on a |
| 20 MS. GIRARD: And create the solution? | 20 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday I believe. Yes, it was done |
| 21 MR. EDWARDS: That's correct. That's my | 21 on a Monday. |
| 22 perception. We have not done any sort of official studies. | $22$ <br> MR. BURDIN: Okay. |
| 23 MS. GIRARD: And you reference this, but it seems | 23 MR. EDWARDS: And I believe that was the nature of |
| 24 like you are aware of the county council recently passing the | 24 that critique, which is fair. |
| 25 new growth and infrastructure policy that addresses school | 25 MR. BURDIN: Okay. That's all. I just wanted to |


| 276 | 278 |
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| 1 clarify that. Thank you. | 1 traffic at that intersection? |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. | 2 MR. RIBEIRO: Yeah. So I see a lot of problems, |
| 3 Mr. Shaffer, any redirect on Mr. Edwards? | 3 one of which is traffic. I witness every day, every weekday, |
| 4 MR. SHAFFER: No. No, Your Honor. | 4 backups in front of my house here in the mornings and in the |
| 5 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay, thank you. | 5 afternoons. The morning ones are from around 7:30 in the |
| 6 Any other questions for Mr. Edwards from anyone who has | 6 morning until roughly $8: 20$ or so when all the girls are |
| 7 joined us as a party? Looking down our list, I don't see any | 7 dropped off at school and the traffic is no longer there to |
| 8 raised virtual hands or anyone trying to wave me down. We | 8 direct the traffic. |
| 9 thank Mr. Edwards for his testimony here today. We will turn | $9 \quad$ There is two different traffic cops. They |
| 10 it back over to Mr. Shaffer for your next witness, sir. | 10 alternate who takes over there. And one of them is very |
| 11 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. If these present -- is Arthur | 11 loud. And when he is very upset with one of the drivers I |
| 12 Ribeiro on? | 12 can hear him screaming frommy living room. And you can |
| 13 MR. RIBEIRO: Good morning. Yes, Mr. Shaffer, | 13 actually see him on exhibit -- what is -- this is Exhibit 67 |
| 14 this is Arthur Ribeiro. I'm here. | 14 in my testimony. A picture of him is on PDF page 4. You can |
| 15 MR. SHAFFER: Okay, great. Could you please | 15 see the intersection right there. This picture was taken on |
| 16 identify yourself for the record? | 16 the day that we did the video. The video was done from the |
| 17 Mr. RIBEIRO: Yes. My name is Arthur Ribeiro da | 17 porch on my house. And you can see a picture of the traffic |
| 18 Silva. I am a resident of 5101 Strathmore Avenue in | 18 in the morning there. |
| 19 Kensington, Maryland 20895. That's a house that sits on the | 19 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. |
| 20 corner of Strathmore and Stillwater Avenues. | 20 MR. RIBEIRO: So I have concerns. So I can |
| 21 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And sir, what is a | 21 testify to the traffic that I see every day here. This |
| 22 good email address for you? | 22 traffic that -- thank you for showing the picture. So there |
| 23 MR. RIBEIRO: So my email address is | 23 is a backup that goes -- and so this is a picture that was |
| 24 ARDaSilva@Verizon.net. And as Mr. Edwards described earlier | 24 taken facing south on to the -- to where the development will |
| 25 with the ad hoc committee that was created, I was sort of put | 25 be. So to the right would be going towards Rockville Pike |
| 277 | 279 |
| 1 in charge of managing and coordinating the work of that | 1 and that traffic there goes all the way to Rockville Pike. |
| 2 committee. But I'm also, like I said, a resident that | 2 There is actually another picture on page 14 of |
| 3 affronts the property. | 3 this PDF that actually shows the traffic going all the way up |
| 4 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And can you raise | 4 the hill towards Rockville Pike, as you can see there. So |
| 5 your right hand, sir? | 5 this traffic is -- happens in the morning and it happens in |
| 6 MR. RIBEIRO: Yes. | 6 the afternoon when -- and so both pickup and drop off of the |
| 7 Do you swear or affirm under penalties of perjury | 7 school. But it also continues on. So Strathmore is one of |
| 8 that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the | 8 the key connectors between Connecticut Avenue and Rockville |
| 9 while truth and nothing but the truth? | 9 Pike East/West corridors here and here in Montgomery County. |
| 10 MR. RIBEIRO: Yes. | 10 And it's only a two lane road. |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, very | 11 And so going into the -- the peak hours that |
| 12 much. Mr. Shaffer, the witness is yours. | 12 usually go into 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. as well. So for example |
| 13 MR. SHAFFER: Good morning. How long have you | 13 after school when I'm taking one of my kids to practice and I |
| 14 lived at that location, sir? | 14 need to go east on Strathmore Avenue, I will be, just like |
| 15 MR. RIBEIRO: Also I've lived here for 14 years, | 15 the car that's sitting there waiting to take a left turn, I |
| 16 just over 14 years in this property. And I purchased the | 16 will be that car waiting to take a left turn. And the backup |
| 17 property, I tore down the house and built it from foundation, | 17 from that light that's on Kenilworth Avenue comes all the way |
| 18 a new property on this very site. And that's why earlier | 18 to hear and further towards Rockville Pike. And so I, like |
| 19 when the architect was speaking, he mentioned that there is a | 19 Mr . Edward said, have to wait for a good Samaritan to allow |
| 20 house with two stories. There are two houses, and my house | 20 me to take that left turn to go east. |
| 21 is one of those. And the window behind me is a view from the | 21 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. |
| 22 second floor of Strathmore Avenue. | 22 MR. RIBEIRO: Because at that point there is no |
| 23 Mr. SHAFFER: Okay. And based upon your personal | 23 cop to direct traffic. |
| 24 observations at that location for 14 years, what problems do | 24 MR. SHAFFER: Right. What has been your |
| 25 you see with the proposal submitted by the Applicant on the | 25 observation, if any, about people using Stillwater as a cut |


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| 1 through to Rockville Pike when it's backed up to the light at | 1 the south side of Strathmore. And there is another bus stop |
| 2 Strathmore and Rockville? | 2 directly across the street fromit on the north side of |
| 3 MR. RIBEIRO: I have definitely seen that happen. | 3 Strathmore which my sons use. And that is so that the kider |
| 4 What they do is they will either take a right turn here on to | 4 do not have to cross the street. And so yesterday when the |
| 5 Stillwater Avenue to go | 5 traffic engineer was saying that the residents, |
| 6 Rockville Pike. Or sometimes if the backup is even further | 6 elementary school residents of this fiture development would |
| 7 back towards Flanders or Kenilworth, they will take the | 7 have to cross Symphony Park twice to get to Garrett Park wa |
| 8 service road, which is in the front of this picture here, and | 8 very concerning. |
| 9 they will drive west on the service road and then take a | $9 \quad$ So you asked about one of my other concerns. So |
| 10 right on Stillwater and go towards | 10 the pedestrian and bike safety is another key concern, like I |
| 11 And I've seen MCPS bus -- school buses do this. | 11 raised earlier. And I was also worried because -- so we had |
| 12 And I worry about emergency vehicles wanting to do this | 12 meetings with the developer. We had meetings with -- that I |
| 13 because I don't know that this road is -- this access road is | 13 organized for our committee to meet with parks and planning. |
| 14 really wide enough to accommodate a fire truck. And in | 14 And when we had that meeting with Ms. Graham and her |
| 15 addition, this road is sort of considered part of like the | 15 colleagues, I was really concerned to see that they were not |
| 16 bike path that the -- and so if my understanding is correct | 16 aware that this crosswalk that you are showing a picture |
| 17 of the master plan, that there is like a bike path that goes | 17 right there does not have a signalized crossing. |
| 18 here. And my daughter, for example, she goes to school | 18 They were under the impression that there was. |
| 19 riding her bike up this service road. So I worry about this | 19 And so my concern was, have you ever even been here to see |
| 20 cut through traffic that would come with cars going really | 20 the property. So later at the planning board meeting they |
| 21 quickly down this road. | 21 claimed that they had and they said this. But it just made |
| 22 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. What other concerns do | 22 me made me really concerned that some of these planning |
| 23 have about the proposal? What other concerns do you have, if | 23 department staff maybe had not even been here to see what |
| 24 any, about the proposal to put the light at the new center 25 driveway entrance to the Academy? | 24 they were approving and what they were analyzing. 25 So I mentioned the traffic. I mentioned the |
|  |  |
| 1 MR RIBEIRO: Yeah. So I was happy to hear 281 | 1 pedestrin bike saty that I can testify to The other 283 |
| 1 MR. RIBEIRO: Yeah. So I was happy to hear | 1 pedestrian bike safety that I can testify to. The other |
| 2 yesterday that I think it was a traffic consultant said that | 2 thing that I can testify to is the effect on the schools. |
| 3 the school is considering still keeping the traffic cops to | 3 Mr . Edwards mentioned it a bit. So I have three kids, one in |
| 4 help direct traffic. I don't know how useful the cop will be | 4 each of school basically. I have a fifth grader. My |
| 5 to direct traffic when there is a stoplight. I think that | 5 daughter is that Garrett Park Elementary School. I have a |
| 6 that cop might be more useful at this intersection here at | 6 son who is an eighth grader at Tilden middle school. And I |
| 7 Stillwater to not only those who are trying to leave our | 7 have my older son who is a 10th grader at Walter Johnson High |
| 8 neighborhood to get onto Strathmore, but also to help | 8 School. My oldest son, the 10th grader, when he was a |
| 9 pedestrians cross the traffic -- or cross the street. | 9 kindergartner, so about 10 years ago, that is when Garrett |
| 10 So as you can see, that crosswalk that's right | 10 Park School was renovated and they moved from the old school |
| 11 there, you can see that there is a yellow pedestrian | 11 to this brand-new elementary school. |
| 12 crosswalk sign that has been run over several times. This is | 12 And within five years, so by the time that he was |
| 13 a very unsafe crosswalk. And I think that the -- adding a | 13 a fifth grader and my son was a third grader, they arty had |
| 14 traffic light here would not only help ease the traffic and | 14 portables on the blacktop in the back of the school because |
| 15 ease the difficulty that our neighbors have in exiting our | 15 they were so overcrowded within five years of renovating the |
| 16 community, but would also help improve the safety for the 17 pedestrians who cross the street | 16 school. So I know that they just renovated and opened a 17 brand-new Tilden Middle school. I know there are plans for |
| 18 This is a very dangerous street to cross. There | 18 another high school in this cluster, Walter Johnson. And |
| 19 is a light there. You can sort of make it -- see it in the | 19 there will be another school at the site where Woodward high |
| 20 picture, but it's not very bright. I've crossed in the dark. | 20 school I think used to |
| 21 I've almost gotten run over there crossing that crosswalk in | 21 But there hasn't really been something to address |
| 22 the dark. And during the day, it's very dangerous, so much | 22 the overcrowding in the elementary schools. And so I would |
| 23 so that MCPS bus routes are done in such a way that the kids | 23 really think that the county council, to approve dense |
| 24 are not supposed across Strathmore Avenue. | 24 developments like this and others in our area, this is not |
| 25 So there is an MCPS bus stop at Symphony Park on | 25 the only one in our area, that they really should add another |


| 284 | $286$ |
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| 1 elementary school to this cluster. That should be a | 1 traffic engineer. I'm not an expert. |
| 2 requirement. | 2 MS. GIRARD: Okay. And you had mentioned staff -- |
| 3 And then the final thing I can testify to and it | 3 your concerns about staff having visited the site. But you |
| 4 was mentioned a little bit, is in terms of the parks and the | 4 did acknowledge that they addressed that at the planning |
| 5 playground area in our neighborhood. So there is a | 5 |
| 6 playground at Jua Drive, which is in our neighborhood. And | 6 MR. RIBEIRO: Yeah, they did. I wasn't -- yes, |
| 7 there is also the White Flint Park playground. The Jua Drive | 7 they addressed it. |
| 8 one is it -- there is a pretty small playground and is more | 8 MS. GIRARD: Okay. And that they had been to the |
| 9 geared to | 9 site? |
| 10 The White Flint Park is much bigger and geared | 10 MR. RIBEIRO: That's what they said. |
| 11 more towards older kids. It also has basketball and tennis | 11 MS. GIRARD: With regard to the perception of the |
| 12 courts. So is really geared towards older community. Maybe | 12 use as a green space, is the community, and are you, aware |
| 13 the -- this development here will use our neighborhood | 13 that this is private property? |
| 14 playgrounds. It would have to cross Strathmore Avenue to do | 14 MR. RIBEIRO: Yes. |
| 15 that at this very dangerous Stillwater intersection to do so. | 15 MS. GIRARD: And so you are there by the grace of |
| 16 But as we talked about, this is a green space that's really | 16 the school? |
| 17 quite used. It is private property of the school, but on | 17 MR. RIBEIRO: Yes. |
| 18 snow days like we saw last month, dozens of kids in this area | 18 MS. GIRARD: That's all I have. |
| 19 go and sled right there on this -- on these hills. | 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Burdin, any |
| 20 And they go there because before the Symphony Park | 20 questions for this witness? |
| 21 townhouses were built, there were even better hills in that | 21 MR. BURDIN: No, I don't. Thank you. |
| 22 undeveloped area. So this development will take away a green | 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you for your |
| 23 space that is really quite used by the neighborhood. And | 23 testimony Mr. Ribeiro. As a child I was a connoisseur of |
| 24 yeah, there may be a small green space with a bench or | 24 sledding hills. So I can certainly appreciate yo |
| 25 something like that, but that, I don't think will really | 25 testimony. There is not a hill in Carroll or Hartford County |
| 285 | 287 |
| 1 address the needs of that community, and intergenerational 2 community, for the kids. | 1 Maryland that I was not on at some point. So I do appreciate <br> 2 that. |
|  |  |
| 4 to the concerns with the traffic, with the pedestrian a |  |
| 5 bike safety, the schools, and to the parks and playground |  |
| 6 areas in this neighborhood. | 6 for his testimony. Back to Mr. Shaffer for any other |
| 7 MR. SHAFFER: Thank you, very much for your | 7 witnesses. |
| 8 testimony. I have no further questions at this time. | 8 MR. SHAFFER: Do I have Vanessa Lido here? |
| 9 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Ms. Girard, any | 9 MS. LIDE: Lide, yes you do. |
| 10 cross-examination of this w | 10 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. I would like to go -- am I |
| 11 MS. GIRARD: Only a couple of questions. Mr. -- | 11 pronouncing your last name correctly? [Lido]? |
| 12 is it [Rib 'ero] or [Ribero]? | 12 MS. LIDE: It's Lide; L-I-D-E. |
| 13 MR. RIBEIRO: [Ribeo | 13 MR. SHAFFER: Okay, thank you. Could you please |
| 14 MS. GIRARD: Ribeiro, sorry. I didn't mean | 14 identify yourself for the record? |
| 15 pronounced it incorrectly befor | 15 MS. LIDE: Yes. My name is Vanessa, last name |
| 16 MR. RIBEIRO: No, that's | 16 Lide, and I live at 5013 Strathmore Avenue on the access |
| 17 MS. GIRARD: With regard to your testimony | 17 road . |
| 18 regarding the traffic light at Stillwater and traffic in | 18 MR. SHAFFER: Could you give us kind of an |
| 19 general, a similar question that I had for Mr. Burdin. | 19 approximation of how far down that road you live towards the |
| 20 this based on your perception or is based on some kind of | 20 east? |
| 21 quantifiable information, documentation, consultation with | 21 MS. LIDE: I'm probably about |
| 22 traffic engineers? | 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Ms. Lide? |
| 23 MR. RIBEIRO: So it's just based on what I see | 23 MS. LIDE: Yes. |
| 24 every day. It's based on these pictures I've taken, the | 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I'm sorry. Can you |
| 25 video that we took. That's all it's based on. I'm not a | 25 raise your right hand, please? |


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| 1 Mr. SHAFFER: Oh, I apologize. | 1 kids home. The only way to do this is to cut through, cut |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's all right. | 2 off the main roadway and go up this access road, which is |
| 3 Do you swear or affirm under penalties of perjur | 3 very na |
| 4 that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the | $4 \quad$ But this access road is also used for people who |
| 5 while truth and nothing but the truth? | 5 are walking. People walk on the sidewalk. People walk in |
| 6 MS. LIDE: Yes, I do | 6 the road, on this access road. And people walk on this |
| 7 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, very | 7 buffer zone. So we are a very popular walking path, whether |
| 8 much. | 8 it's people walking to the Metro, whether it's people walking |
| 9 MS. LIDE: Let me add my email address for the | 9 for exercise, whether it's the scores of kids who walk up |
| 10 record too | 10 this road and our sidewalk to go to school every day or ride |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure | 11 their bikes. We are a well-traveled, very narrow access |
| 12 MS. LIDE: It's V.Lide2345@gmail.com. And I'm | 12 |
| 13 going to state up front th | 13 MR. SHAFFER: And then when they go up this access |
| 14 traffic expert. | 14 road, where are they trying to get to? Stillwater? |
| 15 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you. Thank | 15 MS. LIDE: When they go up? I can't see that far. |
| 16 you, ma'am. | 16 I assume -- there is no bus stop on this access road. The |
| 17 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. Can you describe how far down | 17 is no reason for those buses to be there. And I know most of |
| 18 you live on that access road towards the | 18 the cars who live -- you know, people who live here. And I |
| 19 MS. LIDE: Yes. I'm probably about two thirds of | 19 know -- I can tell when people are zipping up. It's -- you |
| 20 the way down moving westwards. So I'm roughly, I think, | 20 know, they are not -- they are just trying to cut through. |
| 21 front of where the main -- the new access road A, the main | 21 Either they are trying to get the Stillwater and then cut |
| 22 access road is | 22 over, turn left there and cut over to exit out onto Rockville |
| 23 Mr. SHAFFER: Okay. That's what I was trying to | 23 Pike, so that's more cut through traffic that way, or they |
| 24 get on the record. | 24 are trying to get back into the queue, think they are saving |
| 25 MS. LIDE: Yes. So I have a front row seat, yeah. | 25 themselves some time. I don't know. |
| 289 | 291 |
| 1 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. Have you observed any safety | 1 MR. SHAFFER: Is this a frequent occurrence in |
| 2 concerns arising out of the backups on Stillwater and -- I'm | 2 your observation? |
| 3 sorry -- backups on Strathmore | 3 MS. LIDE: When the traffic is backed up, yeah, it |
| 4 MS. LIDE: Yes. The specific concerns, the things | 4 does happen. |
| 5 that I have noticed from my front doorway, is that when | 5 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. And have you reviewed the |
| 6 traffic backs up going either east or west, people try to | 6 mitigation measures proposed by the Applicant? |
| 7 jump the queue by zipping up our road or zipping down our | 7 MS. LIDE: Yes, I have. To the extent that I as a |
| 8 road, whichever way the backup is. I do have some pictures | 8 layperson can -- I don't understand the traffic studies. I |
| 9 of the traffic on Strathmore. I would like to get a chance | 9 don't understand the calculations. One of the things that |
| 10 to share those as wel | 10 strikes me is in these traffic studies it says, well, there |
| 11 But let me describe what happens. First off, w | 11 will be minimal impact, because actually right now there is |
| 12 are a narrow -- I live on a narrow access road. There are | 12 zero cars coming in and out of that access, the current |
| 13 only two houses with driveways. Everybody parks by -- has no | 13 access road at St. Angela Hall. That's because there is |
| 14 choice. They park on the roadway in front of their homes. | 14 nobody there. So -- so anyway. |
| 15 So that basically reduces this access road to a one lane, | 15 So the answer the answer to your question is, ye |
| 16 take your -- please go slowly, take your time to weave in and | 16 I have reviewed them to the extent that I can try and |
| 17 out. And there aren't that many places to pull in if | 17 understand them, but I don't understand them in full. But I |
| 18 everybody is parked on the front anyway. | 18 also have to say that I feel like a lot of the questions |
| 19 So two weeks ago on a Friday afternoon, I'm not | 19 we've asked, we've asked a rational, intelligent, and simple |
| 20 sure why the traffic was particularly bad that day. One | 20 questions. We've had meetings with the developer. We've had |
| 21 after another there were four MCPS school buses that | 21 meetings with Montgomery County Planning. |
| 22 obviously had -- no, MCPS's school bus drivers have been | 22 And the answers we get are, oh, that will be |
| 23 having a very hard time. I know they're trying to get | 23 addressed further down the line or oh, no, no, don't worry |
| 24 everybody home safely, but these bus drivers clearly thought 25 I am -- this is so backed up these -- we have to get these | 24 about stormwater because Montgomery County has the toughest 25 regulations in the country Or on traffic it's like oh |
| 25 I am -- this is so backed up, these -- we have to get these | 25 regulations in the country. Or on traffic it's like, oh, |


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| 1 we've got it planned. We're going to put a traffic light in | 1 Strathmore right at that pedestrian crossway at Stillwater. |
| 2 at the central driveway and that's going to solve all the | 2 And -- |
| 3 backup. Now I would argue that, again, based on my | 3 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: So by Monday |
| 4 perception and based on what the traffic looks like, not all | 4 morning you mean yesterday? |
| 5 of this traffic has to do with the school. There is a lot of | 5 MS. LIDE: Yes. |
| 6 East-West traffic that goes on Strathmore Avenue. Maybe this | 6 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: January 31st, okay. |
| 7 would be a good time if I could share some of the pictures. | 7 MS. LIDE: Yes. So you are looking -- the |
| 8 MR. SHAFFER: Sure, please. Go ahea | 8 nearside lane you're looking at -- and this is the non- |
| 9 MS. LIDE: I'm going to attempt to do this. I | 9 signalized pedestrian crossing. The nearside lane you are |
| 10 might need some help on this. Let's see. Okay. Is that | 10 looking westward up the hill towards Rockville Pike. All of |
| 11 showing up? Is that showing up as sharing my screen or | 11 these cars are not lined up to go into Holy Cross. Some of |
| 12 the -- | 12 them certainly are, but not all of them. And you also get a |
| 13 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: It is not showing | 13 sense of the traffic, that there is also congestion in the |
| 14 up for me, ma'am. | 14 westbound lane. |
| 15 MR. SHAFFER: No. | 15 Okay. This is viewed from the other side of the |
| 16 MS. LIDE: Well, I'm in the share tray, desktop. | 16 street. Again, this is where the bus stop is at this -- |
| 17 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: There should be on | 17 right at this non-signalized pedestrian crossing. So you are |
| 18 option that says window. If you click on it will bring a | 18 seeing traffic backed up as its headed towards Rockville |
| 19 drop-down box with a number of options for the different | 19 Pike. That's the right side, the nearside lane. The far |
| 20 windows that can be displayed. | 20 side lane is coming eastbound. And that's Symphony Park |
| 21 MS. LIDE: This is really frustrating because I | 21 behind it. So if you look here at the top, this is sort of |
| 22 asked to send this and -- let me try tab. Let's try that | 22 roughly where the entrance to Symphony Park is. And then |
| 23 How about that? | 23 Jolly Way is directly across from that. |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Yes. | 24 And so you can see just from this, this picture, |
| 25 Mr. SHAFFER: Yes. | 25 that anybody who is trying to go to work or take their kids |
| 293 | 295 |
| 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: It is appearing | 1 to school or get out of those neighborhoods really does have |
| 2 now. Is an exhibit that says, Exhibit, traffic on Strathmore | 2 a very, very difficult time in the morning. But the same |
| 3 Avenue. | 3 backups happen on the -- at the Stillwater intersection. But |
| 4 MS. LIDE: Okay. | 4 for now we have the Montgomery County safety officer who does |
| 5 MR. SHAFFER: Could you identify this picture for | 5 help traffic get in and out. |
| 6 the record, please? | 6 So this is further up. This is sort of in front |
| 7 MS. LIDE: Okay. So what - | 7 of my house. So this is right down here at the bottom is the |
| 8 MS. GIRARD: Are these new exhibits? I just want | 8 very last little piece of concrete of the existing bus stop |
| 9 to be clear. | 9 that's there. So you can see, yes, traffic is backed up sort |
| 10 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure. | 10 of come in both directions. And so that's what it is on a |
| 11 MS. LIDE: Yes, these are new exhibits. | 11 Monday morning. While we are on -- maybe it's helpful to |
| 12 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: One second. | 12 kind of -- I would also like to talk about the buffer zone. |
| 13 Everyone, one second. So these are going to be proposed as | 13 And it's helpful I think to talk about this when this picture |
| 14 new exhibits. Ms. Girard can certainly object to them or ask | 14 is up. |
| 15 questions about them. We are going to identify the exhibit, | 15 To point out -- so here there is a little bit of |
| 16 where it is, what it was taken, et cetera, first. And then 17 we can deal with any objection over the exhibit in a moment. | 16 shoulder. And then here is the buffer zone that separates 17 the access road and the homes along the access road from the |
| 18 So Ms. Lide, can you tell us when this picture was taken and | 18 traffic noise, from pollution, and gives us a little bit of a |
| 19 who took the picture and the direction that we are looking? | 19 buffer from this roadway. But -- and I will talk about this |
| 20 MS. LIDE: Sure. So I took these pictures. I've | 20 further and hopefully have a chance to explain this, but we |
| 21 been sort of trying to go out and take pictures when the | 21 have been -- we were reassured continuously by EYA, by the |
| 22 traffic is backed up, but is not related to snow or ice | 22 Montgomery County planners, and also even Ms. Girard's |
| 23 anything like that. It's been a little bit challenging in | 23 statement, opening statement yesterday, that there would be |
| 24 the past few weeks. So this is a picture taken Monday | 24 no impact on the buffer zone. |
| 25 morning. This is about 8:00. So we are on the south side of | 25 But essentially you're talking about taking away |


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| 1 the space and another 2 or 3 feet here that really does | 1 side from the site itself, any additional right-of-way |
| 2 impact the buffer zone. But also takes away the shoulder. | 2 nee |
| 3 And that is a pretty critical point on this two lane road. | 3 And that is what we've been told and that -- by |
| 4 Even if you make it a three lane road you still have to let | 4 when we talked with Tamika Graham in the planning department, |
| 5 emergency vehicles from the Kensington Fire Department get | 5 I have emails from Tamika Graham. I have emails from Brenda |
| 6 through here. And that I think will ma | 6 Pardo explaining this. When we talked -- when we met with |
| 7 them to do so and less safe for the ca | 7 EYA on October 4th when there was the earlier hearing on |
| 8 So you can say like, oh yea | 8 December 16, Tamika Graham raised this. And I think ther |
| 9 a Monday morning. But this was a picture I took on Friday | 9 what Ms. Girard also said yesterday in her opening remarks, |
| 10 afternoon. It was about 3:00 p.m. There is no traffic cop | 10 that these are the concerns, these are the concerns and we've |
| 11 there. I think that means there is no -- this was not a tim | 11 addressed them. It's like it's not a proble |
| 12 when Holy Cross Academy was exiting. There's just one car | 12 So that raises a huge red flag for me now saying |
| 13 sitting the | 13 that, can we -- what other half-truths are there here. |
| 14 But this is pretty steady in the afternoons. | 14 feels like my concerns have been papered over four months and |
| 15 remember, there are multiple schools trying to let students | 15 months and months. Then we heard yesterday from Mr. Sloan |
| 16 out safely and get everybody home safely every day here. So | 16 that's, no, no, we're widening the curb and making |
| 17 it's not just Holy Cross. Further up the road on the other | 17 improvements to the bus stop that cut into that buffer zone |
| 18 side of Holy Cross school is -- other side of Holy Cros | 18 So that is, for me, a very real conce |
| 19 Church, which is right next to the proposed site, is Holy | 19 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. Thank you, very much for |
| 20 Cross school. That's a K-8 school. They are letting -- they | 20 testimony. I have no further question |
| 21 have to get people out onto Strathmore Avenue. And then | 21 MS. LIDE: Thank you |
| 22 go a few hundred yards up to Kenilworth Avenue, you are in | 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Ms. Girard, any |
| 23 the town of Garrett Park where | 23 cross-examination of Ms. Lide |
| 24 They have to get school buses and students in and out safely | 24 MS. GIRARD: I just have one -- it may just be a |
| 25 as well. So those are my pictures. Let me see if I can | 25 point of clarification. You had mentioned that not all |
| 297 | 299 |
| 1 fi | 1 traffic was related to the school. |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Ms. Girard or Mr. | 2 that in the picture. Is that accurate? |
| 3 Burdin, any objection to these photos coming into evidence? | 3 MS. LIDE: That's my perception, yes. No |
| 4 MS. GIRARD: None from m | 4 those cars are lined up to turn into Holy Cross. And then |
| RDIN: None from | 5 you look at the westbound traffic, not all of those cars have |
| 6 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. I don't have | 6 clearly come out of Holy Cross |
| 7 exhibit numbers yet, but they will be admitted with the other | 7 MS. GIRARD: And are you aware of whether |
| 8 exhibits from the case and they will be added onto the | 8 traffic analysis that was done by the Applicant's consultant |
| 9 So I think we ended at Exhibit 80 as of right now. So thes | 9 counted just the school trips or all trips on the roadways? |
| 10 will most likely be $81,82-81,82,83,84$, but we will ad | 10 MS. LIDE: I'm assuming they counted all the |
| 11 that after conclusion of the hearing. | 11 trips. I know that there -- from what I can understand, they |
| 12 MS. LIDE: And so if I can go back and does n | 12 are looking at various points and things like that. But I |
| 13 talk about this buffer zone, this is | 13 will tell you, as a layperson I find it very, very difficult |
| 14 why -- you think like, why is this a concern, why does this | 14 to understand the calculations involved, but I will also say |
| 15 matter. It's just 2 or 3 feet, but there are just a numbe | 15 that I also find it very, very difficult to accept that if |
| 16 of issues related to this. We count on that buffer zone as | 16 you are putting that many people, that many staff into a |
| 17 way of sort of insulating ourselves a little bit from th | 17 assisted living facility and that many new homes, that I |
| 18 road no | 18 don't remember -- recall exactly what the number of the new |
| 19 But most of all, I'm sort of really perturbe | 19 trips generated. It seemed very low to me |
| 20 And I would like to be on the record and say I feel lik | 20 And I would also point out that from my |
| 21 we've been -- I -- we've bee | 21 perspective, from my vantage point, it seems to me that a lot |
| 22 particular, have been raising this concern on behalf of many | 22 of the improvements are really designed to make it easier for |
| 23 of my neighbors along this access road for many months now. | 23 traffic to get in and out of this new community even if it's |
| 24 And at every point we've been reassured, no, it's not a | 24 at the expense of the existing residents, longtime residents |
| 25 problem. It's -- the right-of-way has to come from the south | 25 who would really like to be able to get out of their |



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| 1 virtual hand using the virtual hand feature on the top of | 1 congested stretch of Strathmore Avenue. With three school |
| 2 your screen towards the right. It's the third icon in. If | 2 complexes along this same stretch of Strathmore Avenue, we |
| 3 you put your cursor over that icon and click on the hand, it | 3 are concerned that this development will add much more |
| 4 will raise your virtual hand. Or otherwise indicate to me by | 4 congestion to this heavily traveled thoroughfare. |
| 5 either waving your hand or unmuting yourself if anyone else | $5 \quad$ We are concerned that the traffic analyses do not |
| 6 wants to give testimony right now. | 6 adequately account for the ongoing pandemic reduction in |
| $7 \quad$ Looking down the list. All right. So let's do | 7 traffic, nor planned development in the areas of the former |
| 8 Councilwoman Bennett. Mr. Burdin, since you are a party we | 8 White Flint Mall, Strathmore Square, Kensington and Pike and |
| 9 will wait for yours. So we will go with Councilwoman | 9 Rose. Mr. Lester of EYA noted that EYA's tagine is, life |
| 10 Bennett. I don't see any other raised hands or anyone else | 10 within walking distance. We believe the county must ensure |
| 11 indicating to me that they would like to offer -- actually, | 11 this project lives up to this transit oriented billing. We |
| 12 we have one more, Ms. Prebble. So let's do Councilwoma | 12 agree with the planning staff that the projects initial |
| 13 Bennett. You can unmute yourself and we will get your name, | 13 design too heavily emphasizes automobile travel. |
| 14 your address and email. We will swear you in and then yo | 14 For example, we agreed that the wide and long |
| 15 can provide your testimony. | 15 townhouse driveways will result in an auto dominated |
| 16 MS. BENNETT: Okay. My name is Gerilee Bennett, | 16 streetscape. In addition, we suggest the following. First, |
| 17 Council member of the town of Garrett Park. Email address is | 17 consolidate the entrances and exits on and off of Strathmo |
| 18 CouncilGerilee@GarretParkMD.gov | 18 Avenue consistent with 2.11 of the bicycle master plan, which |
| 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, very | 19 calls for driveways and curb cuts to be consolidated along |
| 20 much, ma'am. Can you please raise your right hand? | 20 master planned bikeway facilities. Strathmore Avenue has a |
| 21 Do you swear or affirm under penalties of perjury | 21 master plan side path which is a type of bikeway facility. |
| 22 that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, th | 22 The applicant has indicated that the existing three driveways |
| 23 while truth and nothing but the truth? | 23 for the Academy and the much smaller St. Angela Hall justify |
| 24 MS. BENNETT: I do. | 24 the construction of two full roadways and an additional |
| 25 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. You are | 25 service truck Insurance. Three curb cuts for what is billed |
| 305 | 307 |
| 1 welcome to provide your testimony regarding this application. | 1 as a comprehensive, multigenerational housing development. |
| 2 MS. BENNETT: All right. Good morning Mr. | 2 However, this development will result in an off |
| 3 Baumgardner. I am Gerilee Bennett, town council member of | 3 street shared use bicycle pathway, well, shared use pathway |
| 4 Garrett Park and I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of | 4 rather than the existing on road shared use for bicycles and |
| 5 the Town of Garrett Park. Thank you for the opportunity to | 5 automobiles along this stretch of Strathmore Avenue. This |
| 6 provide input for this local map amendment application | 6 new shared use off street side path will be far less safe and |
| 7 review. This development is of great interest to the Town of | 7 inconsistent with the bicycle master plan recommendations if |
| 8 Garrett Park and our residents. The town limits are less | 8 it has three roadway curb cuts cutting through in very short |
| 9 than one-quarter mile away on Strathmore Avenue, and the tow | 9 succession. |
| 10 owned community center which houses a preschool and | 10 Given the developer's transportation study finding |
| 11 playground is within the staff defined neighborhood and is | 11 of minimal anticipated vehicle trips resulting from the |
| 12 adjacent to the Holy Cross school and church property as well | 12 project, three entrances are excessive and will further |
| 13 as Garrett Park Elementary School. | 13 encourage automobile trips. The comprehensive project |
| 14 It is our position that the county should not | 14 information indicates estimates that the development adds |
| 15 approve the LMA for this development as currently proposed. | 15 minimal vehicle trips at peak hours. If this is truly the |
| 16 We would like to take this opportunity to summarize our | 16 case, one entrance to the development should be sufficient. |
| 17 feedback and concerns as well as recommended conditions after | 17 Two is the more appropriate maximum for the LMA conditions. |
| 18 our review of the detailed application materials made | 18 We request an LMA condition that the additional -- |
| 19 available for public review. We appreciate the care the | 19 that additional study and serious consideration be given to |
| 20 developers are taking to preserve green space and attract | 20 the most beneficial traffic design to improve the flow of |
| $\mid 22$ <br> Our foremost concern is the Ottoman bill | 22 potential benefits if the light and lane, turn lane is placed |
| 23 orientation of the site plan despite the proximity to | 23 at Stillwater Avenue aligned with what is the most |
| 24 Grosvenor Metro station and the subsequent impact of | 24 appropriate main entrance of the development. A signal |
| 25 additional traffic flowing in and out of the already highly | 25 located at Stillwater Avenue and Strathmore could potentially |


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| 1 benefit both the existing residents of Garrett Park Estates | 1 path directly from the property to Metro directly onto |
| 2 and White Flint Park as well as the residents of the new | 2 Tuckerman Lane. We understand that topography and the stream |
| 3 development. | 3 at the southwestern portion of the lot is a challenge, but we |
| $4 \quad$ EYA seems to be indicating that the surrounding | 4 urge that the LMA be conditioned upon incorporation of direct |
| 5 community must choose between the traffic flow improvements | 5 transit oriented pedestrian ingress and egress if feasible. |
| 6 that the additional turn lanes would provide and the green | 6 Such a footbath will not only promote transit use |
| 7 median strip on the Strathmore frontage access road. Ther | 7 of Brandywine and residents of the new homes, but also allow |
| 8 developer could provide the additional right-of-way on the | 8 for access to new dining and retail that is already planned |
| 9 south side of Strathmore to enable the additional turn lane. | 9 at Strathmore Square adjacent to Grosvenor Metro station as |
| 10 The inclusion of three roadway entrances and exits may serve | 10 well as events at Strathmore Hall without automobiles. Th |
| 11 to undermine the effectiveness of the signal and tur | 11 Applicant has indicated that it does not have ownership of |
| 12 measures at the main entranc | 12 the Academy of the Holy Cross property that abuts Tuckerman |
| 13 The care facility could be moved to the wester | 13 Lane. With all due respect, Exhibit 3 makes it clear that |
| 14 side and more inside the housing development which would he | 14 the Academy is a partner of this development, thus securing |
| 15 to better disguise the buildings height and massing a | 15 right-of-way for such a pedestrian path and bridge is within |
| 16 lower point of the property so that it would not | 16 the power of the development partnership. |
| 17 much and cause less alteration of the current streetscap | 17 This development feeds into the Garrett Par |
| 18 character. The site plan could be modified so that the care | 18 Elementary School which has a history of overcrowding and |
| 19 facility as well as the school or accessed via the single | 19 portable classrooms. New developments at Strathmore Square, |
| 20 main entrance to the development at Strathmore -- Stillwater | 20 Harwood Flats and the White Flint area all feed into Garrett |
| 21 Avenue | 21 Park Elementary School. It is unacceptable to approve an LMA |
| 22 We recommend an LMA condition that the parking | 22 for this property to add denser housing without a cle |
| 23 lots and loading docks supporting the residential care | 23 funded Montgomery County public school plan for anoth |
| 24 building be tucked behind the building and accessed from a | 24 elementary school in |
| 25 road within the development rather than facing an access | 25 More importantly, the LMA should be conditioned on |
| 309 | 311 |
| 1 directly from Strathmore Avenue, which would be very visible | 1 a funded and planned safe pedestrian access to Garrett Park |
| 2 to the single-family homes across the way on the north side | 2 elementary school and the two preschools that are located |
| 3 of Strathmore Avenue | 3 within that school complex. It is unrealistic and unsafe to |
| $4 \quad$ As currently depicted, large delivery trucks may | 4 rely on a plan that children will cross Strathmore Avenue |
| 5 be motivated to back into the loading area directly from | 5 twice, once to get to the sidewalk on the north side and then |
| 6 Strathmore Avenue creating further traffic disruption. Such | 6 again to cross back over to the south side of Strathmore at |
| 7 a fundamental shiff from the current tree-lined character of | 7 Kenilworth Avenue in order to reach the schools. The |
| 8 Strathmore Avenue is also just an unaccepted alterat | 8 completion of this pedestrian pathway ensuring a safe route |
| 9 towards a more commercial streetscape in the neighborhood. | 9 to the schools should be a condition of LMA approval. |
| 10 The development circulation plan can easily be modified to | 10 A housing development of this size designed for |
| 11 support access to the rear via a signaled intersection at | 11 families of all ages should also provide adequate |
| 12 Stillwater Avenue, which is the more appropriate entrance for | 12 recreational facilities for its residents. It is shocking |
| 13 trucks. | 13 that the development includes only one small, not clearly |
| 14 To this point EYA has presented this application | 14 laid out play area on the outskirts of the town homes |
| 15 as a comprehensive housing development and stressed that the | 15 adjacent to a roadway rather than centrally located within |
| 16 care facility is a residential building. As such, the care | 16 the residential area. The locations of the closest existing |
| 17 facility's service entrance should be accessed from within | 17 playgrounds in this area were strategically situated to |
| 18 the comprehensive housing development and not directly from | 18 support their associated communities and the neighboring |
| 19 Strathmore Avenue. We note the planning board has repeatedly | 19 elementaries and preschool -- elementary and preschools. |
| 20 articulated a preference for Montgomery County public school | 20 It is also shocking that the developers planning |
| 21 site plans to place parking lot to the rear and for the | 21 documents cite the surrounding neighborhood playgrounds |
| 22 street facing side to be more inviting to pedestrians and the | 22 adequate facilities to support the new development. First, |
| 23 neighborhood. | 23 the new development lacks a safe pedestrian access to the |
| 24 This development should also follow these goo | 24 playgrounds near the schools, as I just mentioned, and |
| 25 design principles. The plan should include a pedestrian bike | 25 families would need to cross the heavy traffic of Strathmore |


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| 1 Avenue to reach any other playgrounds in the area. Secondly, | 1 been considered, what the pros and cons of a signal or a |
| 2 the development itself should provide adequate play area | 2 circle at Stillwater might have been. It just seems like |
| 3 avoid overcrowding at existing playgrounds. We request an | 3 we've been presented with the one option and some minor pros |
| 4 LMA condition that adequate playground facilities be provided | 4 and cons to that without full disclosure of what other |
| 5 on site within the development. | 5 options might be there that might provide better traffic flow |
| 6 In summary we recommend the following conditions | 6 and safety, particularly pedestrian safety in the area. |
| 7 be added to the approval of the LMA. One, reduce the number | 7 MS. GIRARD: Was this ever -- did Garrett |
| 8 of entrances and exits directly onto Strathmore Avenue. Two | 8 ever ask staff, the Applicants, MCDOT, SHA what other options |
| 9 condition additional traffic study and consideration of the | 9 were available |
| 10 traffic flow improvement measures to benefit the community a | 10 MS. BENNETT: We are asking for that now. |
| 11 a whole factoring in safety of pedestrians. | 11 MS. GIRARD: And do you know how long the traffic |
| 12 Three, place the service and the loading dock and | 12 study has been pending in front of the county for approval? |
| 13 staff parking of the care center behind the building and not | 13 MS. BENNETT: No, I'm not sure. |
| 14 directly against Strathmore Avenue. Four pursue direct | 14 MS. GIRARD: Do you recall Katie Wagner's |
| 15 pedestrian pathway to Tuckerman Lane. Five, safe pedestrian | 15 testimony that it was submitted last December? |
| 16 pathway to Garrett Park elementary school should be provided. | 16 MS. BENNETT: December 2021? |
| 17 And six, provide an adequate playground facility on site. | 17 MS. GIRARD: December of 2020. |
| 18 Thank you, very much for your consideration of ou | 18 MS. BENNETT: I don't recall that, no. Thank you. |
| 19 recommendations and concerns | 19 MS. GIRARD: So when you say that it was rushed, |
| 20 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very | 20 that's just your perception? |
| 21 much, ma'am. Ms. Girard, any cross-examination of | 21 MS. BENNETT: I guess you could say that. |
| 22 Councilwoman Bennett? | 22 MS. GIRARD: And are you aware that the traffic |
| 23 MS. GIRARD: Yes, thank you. Sorry | 23 study was reviewed and approved by the Montgomery County |
| 24 writing feverishly | 24 Department of Transportation and the State Highway |
| 25 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's all right. | 25 Administration? |
| 313 | 315 |
| 1 MS. GIRARD: Just a couple of questions. And I | 1 MS. BENNETT: Yes, I'm aware that State Highway is |
| 2 would just focus primarily on your recommendations. When you | 2 reviewing the traffic proposals and studies. |
| 3 speak to the reduction of the number of entrances, has the | 3 MS. GIRARD: With regard to the service dock |
| 4 town done any studies as to what that would do with regard to | 4 behind the building, when you say behind the building what do |
| 5 circulation on the project, emergency access, et cetera? | 5 you mean? Because it's currently the opposite of where the |
| 6 MS. BENNETT: No. As I said, we encourage further | 6 front door i |
| 7 traffic study for safety and traffic flow | 7 MS. BENNETT: Yes. When I say behind, I mean |
| 8 MS. GIRARD: Can you explain that a little bit | 8 behind the building so that it is not facing in Strathmore |
| 9 further? That was number two, right? | 9 Avenue. |
| 10 MS. BENNETT: Yes. | 10 MS. GIRARD: And your concern is the visibility? |
| 11 MS. GIRARD: Can you explain what you mean by | 11 MS. BENNETT: My concern is, as I said, several |
| 12 that? | 12 things. One, it adds an additional entrance on and off of |
| 13 MS. BENNETT: Based on the community concerns | 13 Strathmore Avenue directly. And also, for the neighbors in |
| 14 raised by Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Estate | 14 that area it's presenting the parking lot, dumpsters loading, |
| 15 neighbors as well as neighbors in our community who have | 15 unloading activities for that large 145, 150 bed facility to |
| 16 contacted the town, we believe that the traffic study for the | 16 the neighborhood that already exists, rather than putting it |
| 17 safety and flow as perhaps not -- has been done rather | 17 behind the facility where it's less visible to the |
| 18 quickly. We haven't been shown what other options were | 18 surrounding neighborhood. |
| 19 considered and what the pros and cons of those options were. | 19 MS. GIRARD: So visibility is a concern? |
| 20 MS. GIRARD: What do you mean with regard to | 20 MS. BENNETT: That is one concern, yes. |
| 21 options? | 21 MS. GIRARD: Have you asked for specifics or are |
| 22 MS. BENNETT: So far we've only been shown what | 22 you aware of specifics regarding distance, visibility, |
| 23 the developer chose to do or chose to provide, the one signal | 23 screening? |
| 24 light at, I think you are calling it street A with a left | 24 MS. BENNETT: At one of the meetings we |
| 25 hand turn lane. We don't know what other options might have | 25 participated in with EYA we encouraged them to provide |


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| 1 natural screening and I do believe that EYA in the depictions | 1 MS. GIRARD: Okay. The pedestrian connection to |
| 2 they are providing tree screening so we appreciate that. But | 2 Tuckerman, are you aware of whether there is sufficient area |
| 3 I think the safety concern of the additional curb cut and the | 3 within the existing right-of-way to put a new sidewalk? |
| 4 traffic going in and out of there combined with the | 4 MS. BENNETT: Our proposal is that this be |
| 5 visibility of the parking lot and the dumpster area, the two | 5 conditioned -- that it be considered if feasible. We're not |
| 6 factors combined would argue that it would be better place | 6 pretending to know whether it's feasible are to have done |
| 7 inside of the developm | 7 technical studies. We're just proposing that it be look |
| 8 MS. GIRARD: But when you say visibility you are | 8 more closely. |
| 9 not sure how visible it will actually be | 9 MS. GIRARD: Okay. So if it's in private |
| 10 MS. BENNETT: How could we be? The renderings | 10 ownership you're acknowledging that that's not something the |
| 11 don't actually show that side at all. They only show the | 11 Applicant can control? |
| 12 front side of the care facility | 12 MS. BENNETT: If the private ownership is a member |
| 13 MS. GIRARD: And when you say safety that's based | 13 of the current partnership, it's our view that it is within |
| 14 on what? | 14 the power of the developer to work with their partner, |
| 15 MS. BENNETT: As I sai | 15 Academy of Holy Cross to make a walkway work. |
| 16 bicycle safety of having to cross another unsignaled curb | 16 MS. GIRARD: Maybe we're talking -- I'm talking |
| 17 cu | 17 about the connection -- oh, to Tuckerman. I see what you're |
| 18 MS. GIRARD: Have you examined the safety | 18 saying. I also wanted to address the connection to Garrett |
| 19 associated with bringing trucks in a different entrance whe | 19 Park Elementary School. |
| 20 they might be mingling with school traffic and residential 21 traffic? | 20 MS. BENNETT: Oh, I'm sorry. I misunderstood your 21 question. |
| 22 MS. BENNETT: I'm sorry, say that agai | 22 MS. GIRARD: I may have said Tuckerman. I |
| 23 MS. GIRARD: So the focus is on pedestria | 23 apologize. I may be the one confusing things. |
| 24 bicycle safety. But have you examined the safety concern | 24 MS. BENNETT: I'm not sure what the right of way |
| 25 that may or may not be associated with bringing the trucks in | 25 limits that there are. I know that there are ongoing |
| 317 | 319 |
| 1 Street A and having them mingle with school traffic and other | 1 discussions. My view is, is that the County has the |
| 2 traffic associated with a residential | 2 responsibility of approving this local map amendment, and |
| 3 MS. BENNETT: If they enter any signaled Mike, | 3 they should do it only if adequate facility supported. And |
| 4 perhaps at Stillwater as a central entrance it's going to be | 4 right now, there is not an adequate pedestrian access |
| 5 better protected because there would be pedestrian lighting, | 5 facility to support it. |
| 6 you know, signal lighting as well. | 6 MS. GIRARD: In your opinion? |
| 7 I'd like to go back a moment. You asked me about | 7 MS. BENNETT: In my opinion, yes. |
| 8 the traffic study approval in December of 2020. I'd like to | 8 MS. GIRARD: And with regard to the adequacy of |
| 9 remind you that Garrett Park was only noticed of this | 9 the play areas, are you aware that there are certain |
| 10 development in January of 2021, after that traffic safety | 10 recreational standards and open space standards contained in |
| 11 study. | 11 the zoning ordinance and associated regulations? |
| 12 MS. GIRARD: Correct. That was a year ago, | 12 MS. BENNETT: Yes. |
| 13 correct? | 13 MS. GIRARD: So when you say -- and do you know, |
| 14 MS. BENNETT: Correct. My point being that there | 14 based on the testimony you've heard, or your own independen |
| 15 was no effort to reach out to the community while the traffic | 15 analysis, whether in the proposed application will meet with |
| 16 study was underway. | 16 those requirements? |
| 17 MS. GIRARD: The traffic study having been | 17 MS. BENNETT: It's hard to say because the |
| 18 submitted just the month before | 18 renderings really don't show any details of what the |
| 19 MS. BENNETT: Right. But I just wanted to clarify | 19 playground space would look like. |
| 20 that we were provided notice after it was completed. | 20 MS. GIRARD: But with regards to seeing -- |
| 21 MS. GIRARD: And were you provided notice before | 21 MS. BENNETT: Our primary concern is really not so |
| 22 the application was formally accepted? | 22 much whether it meets the minimal regulatory requirement, but |
| 23 MS. BENNETT: Our understanding is that the | 23 that it would actually be a usefiul, adequate play area for |
| 24 application had already been submitted when the town was | 24 the multi-generational community there. And also, |
|  |  |


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| 1 playgrounds in the surrounding area, they all require a | 1 p.m.) |
| 2 crossing of Strathmore Avenue to get to them safely. | 2 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: It is 1:07 p.m. |
| 3 MS. GIRARD: So when you say adequate, you mean | 3 This is still February 1st and we are going to go back on the |
| 4 adequate in terms of the town's subjective opinion? | 4 record in OZHA case local map amendment 143, the R60 zone to |
| 5 | 5 the CRNF zone for the property located at 4910-4920 |
| 6 on our op | 6 Strathmore Avenue. Just making sure that we have all of our |
| 7 MS. GIRARD: | 7 folks back |
| 8 That's all I have. Thank you | 8 We have our court reporter. |
| 9 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Th | 9 Ms. Girard are you still with us? There you are. |
| 10 ti | 10 |
| 11 we will r | 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Great. And Mr. |
| 12 Mr. Burdin, do you | 12 Shaffer and Mr. Burdin, the other two parties. Before the |
| 13 Councilwoman Bennett? | 13 lunch break we were doing a cross-examination of Councilwoman |
| 14 MR. BURDIN: Yeah, | 14 Bennett. I believe Mr. burden had a follow-up question |
| 15 with lunch. | 15 two for Ms. amendment. Just as a reminder, ma'am, you ar |
| 16 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: | 16 still under oath. |
| 17 back up at 1:05? I just wanted to check with you. | 17 Mr. burden |
| 18 MR. BURDIN: Oh. Sure | 18 questions |
| 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. You know | 19 MR. BURDIN: Okay. Well, I thought about it over |
| 20 don't want | 20 lunch, and I think I can cover what I wanted to ask her about |
| 21 write them down | 21 in my testimony. So I don't have any questions at this time. |
| 22 | 22 Thank your |
| 23 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. Good. We | 23 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Understood. Thank |
| 24 w | 24 you. Ms. Bennett, thank you very much for your testimony. |
| 25 for a quick follow-up questions from Mr. Burdin of | 25 MS. BENNETT: Thank you. |
| 321 | 323 |
| 1 Councilwoman Bennett. Then, we will -- it looks like we have | 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. We are |
| 2 two other indiv | 2 at the stage where we were accepting public comment and |
| 3 community, I believe. And we will pick up the end with Ms | 3 testimony from other members of the community who are not |
| 4 Girard's reb | 4 currently represented by counsel. There were two members, I |
| 5 Ms. Girard, | 5 believe, from the community that had raised their virtual |
| 6 MS. GIRARD: I sure am | 6 hand. I hadn't seen anyone else indicate that they wanted to |
| 7 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: There was one thing | 7 testify. So in order of my drop-down box here, Katy Prebble. |
| 8 I wanted to follow up with you either on rebuttal | 8 MS. PREBBLE: Yes. |
| 9 Sloan. | 9 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Hello. If you can |
| 10 been some reference to in adequate public -- adequate public | 10 just give us your full name, your address, and a good email |
| 11 facilities finding that is certainly more thorough und | 11 address, please? |
| 12 preliminary plan, but I do haver | 12 MS. PREBBLE: Okay. My name is Kathleen Prebble. |
| 13 So if you can add | 13 You want my home address, I'm sorry, or work? |
| 14 your clos | 14 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Are you a member -- |
| 15 overlooked at this stage. And our agency has to constantly | 15 MS. PREBBLE: I'm representing the Academy. |
| 16 remind planning that we have to make our own independent | 16 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Your representing |
| 17 finding on that. So if you can just make sure to go throug | 17 who, ma'am, I'm sorry? |
| 18 that either with Mr. Sloan or in your clos | 18 MS. PREBBLE: The Academy of the Holy Cross |
| 19 helpfu | 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. Did your |
| 20 MS. GIRARD: Yeah, I actually had a note on that | 20 professional address and a professional email, please? |
| 21 So Mr. Sloan will address | 21 MS. PREBBLE: Thank you. 4920 Strathmore Ave., |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Great. Well, thank | 22 Kensington 20895. My email is first initial, last name, |
| 23 you all very much. We will see you all back at 1:07 p.m. | 23 KPrebble@AcademyoftheHolyCross.org |
| 24 today. | 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. And |
| 25 (Off the record at 12:07 p.m., resuming at 1:07, | 25 ma'am, would you please raise your right hand? |




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| 1 residential address and a good email address, please? | 1 Cross that opened in 1956. That land was then also |
| 2 SISTER NIKERSON: Yes. My name is Sister Ruth | 2 dedicated, given to the archdiocese for a parish that became |
| 3 Marie Nikerson. I am a Sister of the Holy Cross. Our | 3 Holy Cross Parish which is adjacent to St. Angela Hall today. |
| 4 motherhouse is Notre Dame Indiana. I live in Kensington, | $4 \quad$ Also on the premise was planned a hospital. The |
| 5 Maryland on Denfeld Avenue. I am a graduate of the Academy | 5 hospital was part of our ministries throughout the United |
| 6 of the Holy Cross. | 6 States, and we thought it would be good to have a hospital on |
| 7 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Ma'am? | 7 this land. But as we all know, it moved over to Silver |
| 8 SISTER NIKERSON: Yes? | 8 Spring after negotiation and a request to move it over to |
| 9 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I'm sorry | 9 Silver Spring, Maryland. |
| 10 SISTER NIKERSON: You need an -- | 10 The next was followed by St. Angela Hall, and it |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: So -- well, that's | 11 provided a beautiful home for our Sisters who were aging |
| 12 okay. Do you live in the immediate vicinity? | 12 place after all of these many ministries, there were a lot of |
| 13 SISTER NIKERSON: I live on Denfeld Avenue whither | 13 aging Sisters, and it provided for the semi-retired, the |
| 14 is close by but not in the immediate -- I don't live in | 14 retired. It also became a gathering place for all our |
| 15 Garrett Park. I live on the other side of Connecticut | 15 sisters in the area. It has a very special place in the |
| 16 Avenue. | 16 hearts of our Siste |
| 17 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I understand. I do | 17 But as the building began to take on age, it had |
| 18 need to swear you in, ma'am. Can you please raise your righ | 18 its effect on the building, and the significant high |
| 19 hand? | 19 infrastructure costs to repair it, the question came is it |
| 20 And do you swear or affirm under the penalties of | 20 appropriate use of our limited resources to rebuild it since |
| 21 perjury that the testimony you're about to give is the truth, | 21 we had a decreasing number of Sisters in the area. |
| 22 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? | 22 And after prayer and discernment, and also with |
| 23 SISTER NIKERSON: I do | 23 the Mother House having availability to welcome our Sisters |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very | 24 with a whole range of care from independent living to skilled |
| 25 much. What is your testimony? | 25 nursing, the decision was made to sell the prime property of |
| 333 | 335 |
| SISTER NIKERSON: I am a graduate of the Academy | 1 St. Angela Hall to augment the work of our Sisters and |
| 2 of the Holy Cross and I presently serve on the board of | 2 ministries on for continents in the world today, in the |
| 3 trustees of the Academy, and also as chair of the Academy at | 3 global world today, where are Sisters care for the people |
| 4 this time. But today, I'm not representing the Academy. I | 4 with arising needs. So that was the decision that was made |
| 5 stand firmly behind Mrs. Prebble's -- I usually just call her | 5 by the Sisters that really brought us to where we are today. |
| 6 Katy -- her presentation today, and it has the full support | 6 In the years -- in the time after the decision was |
| 7 of the Board of Trustees. But I'm representing the Sisters | 7 made the Sisters asked the various groups what they thought |
| 8 of the Holy Cross, and affirming the decision that has | 8 this next step should be for the development of the land, and |
| 9 brought us to this point today with Brandywine, and also with | 9 they gathered information from many of the residents in the |
| 10 EYA. | 10 community and then putting that together developed a |
| 11 The last time I spoke to a group, I talked m | 11 proposal, and sent out the proposal and asked for |
| 12 about the Sisters of the Holy Cross and how we came to this | 12 submissions. And those who submitted, the first was a |
| 13 area after the Civil War. And as Katy has said, Mrs. Prebble | 13 Brandywine, as I understand it. And then the joint venture |
| had said, that the Academy was opened in 1868 following the | 14 came, a potential joint venture with EYA if the Academy's |
| 15 Civil War. So we came early on at that time, and since that | 15 land could be also used in the development. |
| 16 time, we have engaged in ministries from colleges, high | 16 And for the Sisters this became a very important |
| 17 schools, parish schools, ministries to social outreach and to | 17 decision because not only was -- we were continuing care for |
| the various needs of our time, opening and closing ministries | 18 seniors in our community now they weren't Sisters, but now we |
| 19 as appropriate. During World War II, we acquired, with the | 19 would be opening it up to the general public for the care of |
| 20 assistance of a very generous a benefactor, the Corby estate | 20 seniors. It also had intergenerational housing |
| 21 which brings us to where we are today in the development. | 21 opportunities, and I think Katy spoke very much to the |
| 22 It became the headquarters for the Sisters of the | 22 benefit that that would have for building community. |
| 23 Holy Cross. It became the Eastern Providence headquarters | 23 The reason that the Sisters really looked to |
| 24 for the Sisters based out of Notre Dame, Indiana. The first | 24 Brandywine and EYA was because of how they presented their |
| 25 development on that property was the Academy of the Holy | 25 professional work, what they have accomplished, and their |

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history in each of their fields, with their outstanding
reputations. But also, their interest and intent on building
community wherever they developed their programs. And so,
that really spoke to the Sisters and was part of the
decision, as well as looking at how we could enhance the
Academy, even though that was a separate decision of the
board of trustees of the Academy of the Holy Cross. But we
were delighted to see that the two could work together so
beautifully.
    And I do want to develop -- when the plan was
developed, and before the plan was developed, there were
numerous sessions with the community and residents about
opportunities and possibilities of what this it also was that
we listened to the concerns of the residents of the area and
tried to adjust appropriately, or they tried to adjust
16 appropriately. They worked not only with the Academy in
partnering with how to develop and make the changes that were
8 necessary, the Academy really had some demands that they
asked the new partnership, and they were met.
    As also the value of listening to the community
and trying to make the plans of the housing respond to the
community needs. And really, to build something that we
could all be proud of in the community.
So I want to go back on one thing, and it is set
in the design of the project, the development project on both
history in each of their fields, with their outstanding
reputations. But also, their interest and intent on building community wherever they developed their programs. And so, that really spoke to the Sisters and was part of the decision, as well as looking at how we could enhance the Academy, even though that was a separate decision of the board of trustees of the Academy of the Holy Cross. But we were delighted to see that the two could work together so beautifilly.
And I do want to develop -- when the plan was developed, and before the plan was developed, there were numerous sessions with the community and residents about opportunities and possibilities of what this it also was that we listened to the concerns of the residents of the area and tried to adjust appropriately, or they tried to adjust appropriately. They worked not only with the Academy in partnering with how to develop and make the changes that were 8 necessary, the Academy really had some demands that they asked the new partnership, and they were met.
As also the value of listening to the community and trying to make the plans of the housing respond to the community needs. And really, to build something that we could all be proud of in the community. in the design of the project, the development project on both
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    the senior living and the housing, it was the community was
    listened to. We tried to respond to what the needs, or the
    desires of the community, and really again, to say something
    that we were trying to build a community all would be proud
    of.
    Yes, concerns were brought about -- were brought
    up and attempted to be addressed. The developers, the design
of the project that wasn't done with considerable
professionalism, bringing in appropriate consultants as
10 necessary to respond to the various issues, and traffic was,
11 yes of course, one of the issues that was high on our list
that needed to be responded to and done.

13 I do want to say that both EYA and Brandywine 14 respectfully listen to the neighbors, and tried to make
15 appropriate additions or changes that were appropriate,
16 taking into consideration the various planning -- Montgomery
17 County planning requirements. So there was a lot of
18 listening and addressing the concerns.
19 I believe today that the plan that is it being
20 developed, and we know that it will continue to be revised
21 accordingly, will be appropriate as to traffic and to
22 approaching the -- both of the developments, the senior
living and Brandywine.

But I believe we will have a place that we can all
25 be proud of and that it will be a part of the community
the senior living and the housing, it was the community was
listened to. We tried to respond to what the needs, or the desires of the community, and really again, to say something
that we were trying to build a community all would be proud of.

Yes, concerns were brought about -- were brought up and attempted to be addressed. The developers, the design
of the project that wasn't done with considerable
professionalism, bringing in appropriate consultants as 10 necessary to respond to the various issues, and traffic was, 11 yes of course, one of the issues that was high on our list that needed to be responded to and done.

15 appropriate additions or changes that were appropriate,
16 taking into consideration the various planning -- Montgomery
17 County planning requirements. So there was a lot of
18 listening and addressing the concerns.
20 developed, and we know that it will continue to be revised
21 accordingly, will be appropriate as to traffic and to
22 approaching the -- both of the developments, the senior
23 living and Brandywine.
24

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looking forward into the years. The Sisters of the Holy
Cross and believe in this project and fully affirmour
support of Brandywine and EYA today. So thank you very much
for listening to me.
    HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very much
Sister Nikerson.
    Ms. Girard, do you have any follow-up questions
for this witness?
    MS. GIRARD: No, nothing. Thank you.
    HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay, Mr. Shaffer,
do you have any follow-up questions for this witness?
    MR. SHAFFER: (Inaudible).
    HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I believe I heard
you say no. Again, we're having trouble hearing you, Mr.
Shaffer. Can you try logging off and logging back on again?
    MR. SHAFFER: Yes.
    HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay, Mr. burden,
do you have any questions for this witness?
    MR. BURDIN: I do not.
    HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very
much, ma'am.
    I believe that complaints of the public testimony
portion of our hearing, save for Mr. burden, who is a party.
    There you are Mr. Shaffer, we see you back there.
    So what we're going to do now, and this will be
2 Cross and believe in this project and fully affirmour
3 support of Brandywine and EYA today. So thank you very much
for listening to me.
HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very much Sister Nikerson.
Ms. Girard, do you have any follow-up questions
for this witness?
MS. GIRARD: No, nothing. Thank you.
HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay, Mr. Shaffer,
do you have any follow-up questions for this witness?
MR. SHAFFER: (Inaudible).
HEARINGEXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I believe I heard
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MR. BURDIN: I do not.
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So what we're going to do now, and this will be
So what were going to do now, and this will be
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the game plan for the rest of the afternoon. Mr. burden had
requested the ability to testify himself as a party, which is
certainly appropriate. And then, also, to give a closing
argument, which is also appropriate. So I think what we're
going to do now is allowed Mr. burden to testify as a
community member. Then we will switching gears back to Ms.
Girard to put on, I believe Mr. Sloan, as a rebuttal witness.
So we will go through some questions regarding that rebuttal
testimony. And then, we will do closing arguments with Ms.
Girard going first and then Mr. Shaffer, and then Mr. burden
at the end. Is that acceptable for everyone?
MS. GIRARD: Yeah, just one point of
clarification. We're also going to call back Ms. Wagner.
HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. And in the
world of rebuttals that would be appropriate. So you're
going to start with Mr. burden. Sir, you are -- I don't
think we've sworn you in yet. So we will do that, and then
you can provide your testimony, sir.
So again, can you just give us your full name,
your address, and a good email address, please?
MR. BURDIN: Yes, Douglas Scott burden, 5112
Strathmore Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.
DBurdin@Verizon.net.
HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very
much, sir. And do you swear or affirm under the penalties of

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the game plan for the rest of the afternoon. Mr. burden had
requested the ability to testify himself as a party, which is
certainly appropriate. And then, also, to give a closing
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world of rebuttals that would be appropriate. So you're
going to start with Mr. burden. Sir, you are -- I don't
think we've sworn you in yet. So we will do that, and then
you can provide your testimony, sir.
So again, can you just give us your full name,
your address, and a good email address, please?
MR. BURDIN: Yes, Douglas Scott burden, 5112
Strathmore Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.
DBurdin@Verizon.net.
HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very
much, sir. And do you swear or affirm under the penalties of

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| perjury that the testimony you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? <br> MR. BURDIN: I do. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very <br> much. You are welcome to provide your testimony here today. <br> MR. BURDIN: Okay. I gave you my address, just <br> for context, it's in the north east corner of Symphony Park, <br> so very close to the proposed development. I've lived there <br> for almost two years, but I did grow up in Garrett Park, in <br> Garrett Park Estates, and you know, I used to play football <br> on the Holy Cross field and walked across the grounds and the <br> field and the convent. <br> Are you getting background noise? <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I am not. <br> MR. BURDIN: Okay. My wife is vacuuming upstairs <br> and I can hear her, but I just wanted to make sure you <br> couldn't hear it. <br> I want to testify about a couple of things about <br> the transit use. I walked to the Metro station from <br> approximate the center point of the development frontage on <br> Strathmore Avenue at a regular pace and under clear and <br> normal conditions, it took me about 13 minutes, 13 or 14 <br> minutes, and I estimate, what Mr. Edwards did come earlier, <br> that walking from the back or south end of the proposed <br> development on Strathmore on the path up to the Metro would | on Symphony Park, few people in the townhouse use the Metro. <br> I wanted to note my observations, as others have, about the traffic at Strathmore in both the 7:30 to 8:30, to 9:00 timeframe and the $2: 30$ to 3:30 time frame, around the time when the schools are in session. Anytime the schools have been in session I think there has always been a traffic officer present, but what I have observed even though the traffic officer is helping the flow of traffic in and out of that entrance, there is still backup, sometimes past Symphony 10 Park and up toward Garrett Park, you know, to or close to Kenilworth Avenue. <br> So despite what I have observed, despite the <br> presence of the police officer that the traffic still backs up and the delays are still significant. And I have also, occasionally, been stuck trying to get out of my development, either going east or west and had delays from traffic. And I have been personally in that traffic occasionally that gets backed up on Strathmore. <br> I want to address it Ms. Wagner's answer to a <br> question in cross-examination yesterday about walking from <br> the proposed site to Garrett Park Elementary School. I <br> thought her answer was kind of muddled and propose some <br> things that aren't really feasible. And this assumes that <br> the developer will not be able to extend the path past their <br> eastern border up to the Holy Cross driveway. |
| add another 4 or 5 minutes. <br> I also did the same thing walking to the Garrett <br> Park MARC station, is an acronym, station from the same starting point and it took, again, about 13 or 14 minutes, and again, walking from the back of the proposed development would add 4 or 5 minutes. I note that starting from the Brandywine proposed facility would be closer to the Garrett Park MARC station but firther from the Metro station. So those people would have to walk further to the Metro. <br> My anecdotal observations are that very few <br> residents of Symphony Park, which is a 115 unit townhouse development closer to Metro than the proposed site, that very few residents of Symphony Park use the Metro. I'm often walking my dog around 8 to 9 in the morning, sometimes earlier, on the path near and on Symphony Park to Metro and I very rarely, if ever, have seen what I thought was somebody that looked like they were heading towards the Metro. In other words, somebody in a suit, or that didn't -- weren't out just for a casual walk. <br> I would also say that I don't think -- well, I've never received a questionnaire or inquiry from anybody about my use of the Grosvenor Metro station while I lived at Symphony Park. And I've never seen anybody observing, you know, somebody that might have been trying to ascertain the use of Metro by Symphony Park. Basically, I'm saying based | She basically -- residents leaving the proposed <br> site would have three possible ways to get to Garrett Park Elementary School. One would be, which I think Ms. Wagner was talking about would be to use the sidewalk to the edge of the property, and then cross the Holy Cross property using what she called a goat path, which I've been on, it's just a little dirt path where people have trampled the grass. You can use that to cross the grassy part of the Holy Cross church property. <br> That would bring you to two driveways they have a going in and out of the church itself. They are two lane driveways in both directions. One lane for parking, and one lane for traffic. You would have to cross those, you would then come to another street that -- you know, property road that goes from the big Holy Cross parking lot to the church and school area. I think that's where they drop and pick up kids that are using -- using cars to drop off kids there. <br> That would take you to the Holy Cross, but large parking lot that they have there. And to get to Garrett Park from there, you would have to cross that parking lot and then there's a chain link fence with only one opening. It's a very rough, and not very pedestrian friendly open to Garrett Park. And that would take you to the Garrett Park traffic -parking lot. So there's a lot of detail, but the point is 25 it's not a way that any parent would take their kids to get |


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| to Garrett Park. And again, I thought Ms. Wagner was suggesting it was a feasible path. <br> The second way would be to walk to the edge of the property on the new proposed sidewalk and then cross Strathmore, but I don't think there's a crosswalk there. So it would not be an acceptable ways to go either. <br> The third way, which is the most reasonable way and would be to leave the property, cross Strathmore -- or the most reasonable, cross Strathmore, get on the Strathmore Avenue access road and the sidewalk there, walk north, and then eventually you will come up with the sidewalk in Garrett Park and cross Kenilworth -- I mean, cross Strathmore again at Kenilworth and then proceed to the school. <br> So I just wanted to clarify the walk ability issue a little bit. <br> The next thing I wanted to talk about some, not surprisingly, is the traffic study and the issue that I was 18 crossing Ms. Wagner yesterday on, one of the issues. In the 19 original LATR traffic report as we look at it yesterday and 20 Table 7 there are massive delays in the existing and <br> 21 background sections -- conditions for the school entrance at 22 Stillwater in the a.m. peak hours. And those were reduced to 23 about 10 seconds in the future condition with the additions 24 of the proposed -- you know in the future conditions includes 25 any cars added by the proposed project itself. | identified as a problem with this existing intersection. <br> Now, the addition of the lane leaving the school <br> could help delays for those cars turning right because they <br> would presumably be less cars turning right stuck behind cars <br> that wanted to turn left but had to wait for traffic to <br> clear. That might help some for sure. But I don't think -- <br> again, it wouldn't do anything to help cars turning on <br> Strathmore, turning left into the Academy. So I don't think <br> that either of those changes explain the massive reductions, <br> 10 especially because the future conditions are going to add <br> cars to the roads. <br> Now, turning to the addition of the light and the <br> left turn lane that has been proposed, but not approved in <br> 4 any way. Again, that might help, but it doesn't seem like at <br> 5 the worst hours that would help any more than the police <br> officer is. In fact, the school, as we just heard, is still <br> committed to putting the officer there, in seeming <br> 8 recognition that the traffic light wouldn't be adequate. As <br> 9 I mentioned before, we still have delays and backups there <br> when there is a traffic officer there. And I don't think <br> that the traffic consultant explained any of these <br> adequately. <br> 23 Now, one thing I'm not sure about if Mr. <br> 24 Baumgardner, if you will give me a little guidance. Fact <br> 25 witnesses have been suggesting conditions. I can do that now |
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| The supplemental analysis, there are also large <br> delays, not as large as in the original LATR, in the existing and background for the a.m peak for the school entrance, which equates to the Stillwater entrance in the background -I'm sorry, at the Stillwater school entrance intersection. And again, those in the future conditions were reduced to a level that was just above the congestion level. So they were reduced and they started in the supplemental -- the delays started at a lower number, around 225 , and in the future were reduced to 77.7, I think. <br> So the explanation for both reductions is two on the ground proposed changes. The first proposal was to align the proposed sites western entrance with Stillwater. And the second proposed on the ground change would be to add a lane coming out of the Academy entrance so there would be one lane for cars turning right, going east, turning right into the Academy, and two lanes leaving out. One to turn left onto Strathmore out of the Academy, and one to turn right. <br> Now, looking at the first proposed change, the <br> realignment, I don't see how that would help very much at <br> all, or if at all, but very minimally at most. It would do nothing to address the cars on Strathmore Avenue going west and turning into the Academy, which is identified as one of the big problems with this intersection. And it would not do anything for cars turning left out of the Academy, also | ```or in argument, I'm not sure which is appropriate. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I think either would be appropriate. MR. BURDIN: Okay. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: To make it a little easier in terms of the order, and particularly for my notes, let's do it during your argument phase. That way we will have the three parties to be able to address at that particular issue in order. MR. BURDIN: Okay. That's fine. I think that is all I have. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Thank you very much, sir. Ms. Girard, any questions for Mr. burden based upon that testimony? MS. GIRARD: I'm sorry. I may have just misunderstood what happened. But Mr. burden said he was going to propose conditions, but he is now suggesting he'll do that in his closing argument? HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's correct. It just to keep things flowing, I think if we have that at closing as kind of a snapshot it would be a better way to -- well, I suppose if you're going to comment on those. MS. GIRARD: Right that was my -- based on the order that you had for closing statements I'd like an``` |


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| opportunity to address any conditions that he is proposing. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I think that's <br> reasonable. So I take back what I said, Mr. burden. Let's <br> hear those conditions if you are prepared to provide them and <br> now. I do think it's reasonable for counsel to be able to <br> respond to those conditions if they are feasible, if they are <br> possible. So we will take those down now, if that's okay with you. <br> MR. BURDIN: Yes. Sure. And I only have two. <br> The first would relate to the traffic light and the westbound <br> left turn lane to make that a condition of the approval so <br> that any benefit, which I'm not convinced of, but any <br> potential benefit from those two items would be a condition <br> of the approval. <br> The second would be an obligation to study traffic <br> obligation on the developers, or the owners of the project sites to study traffic after the project is complete, <br> assuming that it gets approved, is complete and to ascertain <br> the effectiveness of the light and any other mitigation <br> measures without -- you know, with and without the traffic <br> officer. I'm not sure how that would play out. You know, <br> the church has committed to keeping it but I don't know that <br> that's binding and they're not a party so you can't bind <br> them <br> And if that subsequent traffic study shows that | MS. GIRARD: And would you agree that Metro <br> ridership has been much lower than pre-pandemic? <br> MR. BURDIN: I have read that to be the case. <br> MS. GIRARD: Okay. And are you aware, we heard <br> testimony from Ms. Prebble that Symphony Park kids are picked <br> up on Strathmore to go to Garrett Park Elementary School? Do <br> you know if that's true? <br> MR. BURDIN: I have heard that and I believe I <br> have observed that once or twice. <br> MS. GIRARD: So they don't walk to school, to your knowledge? <br> MR. BURDIN: I have not seen anybody from my <br> development of school age walk to Garrett Park. <br> MS. GIRARD: Okay. And with regard to your <br> critiques of the traffic study, again, are these based -- do <br> you have any traffic engineering background? Is this your <br> opinion? Have you consulted with any experts? <br> MR. BURDIN: I am not an expert. And I have not <br> consulted with any experts. <br> MS. GIRARD: Okay. So your critiques of the <br> traffic study are your own opinion? <br> MR. BURDIN: They are my analysis of what I could <br> understand in the traffic studies. And, I mean, they're -- <br> I'm trying to think if they're my opinion. They're my <br> factual ascertainment of what those documents mean. |
| the projections by the traffic experts and that you're relying on to the extent you do prove to be inaccurate that there would be an obligation to further mitigate traffic based on that subsequent study. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Understood. Thank you Mr. Burdin. <br> Ms. Girard we'll turn it over to you for cross of <br> Mr. Burdin if you would like to ask any questions. <br> MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And I appreciate the change of course to allow us to hear those conditions. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure. <br> MS. GIRARD: Mr. Burdin, you mentioned that you've <br> lived in Symphony Park for approximately two years. <br> Approximately when did you move in? <br> MR. BURDIN: March 2020. I've owned the property <br> since October 2019, rented it for about four months and then moved in. <br> MS. GIRARD: And is it fair to say that your <br> observations of people walking to or from the Metro were -have mainly been when you have lived there? <br> MR. BURDIN: They have only been when I have lived there. <br> MS. GIRARD: And is it fair to say that you've <br> lived there primarily during the pandemic? <br> MR. BURDIN: That is fair. | MS. GIRARD: Okay. That's all I have. Thank you. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank, you. Mr. <br> Shaffer, any questions of Mr. Burdin? <br> MR. SHAFFER: No, thank you. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. I did have <br> one follow-up question for Mr. Burdin. <br> So sir, you live in the Symphony Park community, <br> correct? <br> MR. BURDIN: Yes. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And if you know, <br> when was that community built? <br> MR. BURDIN: Around 2013, '14. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And when -- and <br> again, only if you know, was there community opposition to <br> the construction of that development? <br> MR. BURDIN: I do not know. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And that's fair. I <br> was just curious if that was known to you or not. Okay. <br> That's all I have. Thank you very much. <br> We are going to -- so that's the questions for Mr. <br> Burdin. We're going to turn it back over to Ms. Girard for <br> the calling of any rebuttal witnesses and I'll turn that back <br> over to you now. <br> UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You are on mute, Erin. <br> MS. GIRARD: Sorry. I'm going to recall Katie |


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| 1 Wagner. | 1 intersections that both the proposed signals at Stillwater |
| 2 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I do see Ms. | 2 and Flanders as recommended today will not be warranted. |
| 3 Wagner. Ma'am, just as a reminder, you are still under | 3 That SHA requires an eight-hour traffic warrant to be met, or |
| 4 actually, you are not still | 4 a four-hour traffic warrant to be met at locations that are |
| 5 different day. Can you please raise your right hand? | 5 not at schools. And so I do not believe that SHA would |
| 6 Do you swear or affirm | 6 |
| 7 perjury that the testimony you are about to give is the | 7 MS. GIRARD: And we also heard testimony this |
| 8 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? | 8 afternoon, or this morning, regarding the consolidation of |
| 9 MS. WAGNER: I do. | 9 the entrances. And particularly putting the loading |
| 10 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. We have | 10 activities along the main drive. Can you address that |
| 11 your information from yesterday so you do not need to repeat | 11 recom |
| 12 that. I turn the witness back over to Ms. Girard | 12 MS. WAGNER: Yes. We worked for months prior |
| 13 questioning. | 13 developing this plan for the access scenarios with park and |
| 14 MS. GIRARD: Thank you | 14 planning staff and determined that each access point was |
| 15 Ms. Wagner, were you present today listening to | 15 needed for a very specific reason. The Stillwater connection |
| 16 the testimony of Mr. Edwards regarding his counting of cars? | 16 was adamantly proposed by staff that they wanted to have that |
| 17 MS. WAGNER: Yes, I was | 17 as a secondary access point for residents, for emergency |
| 18 MS. GIRARD: And can you address -- I believe you | 18 vehicles to connect to the community |
| 19 had spoke about it in your direct testimony, but can you just | 19 The center driveway is needed for the school |
| 20 address for us again, what you did with regard to thos | 20 driveway to be able to have a signal at that intersection to |
| 21 counts, and how they may have differed from your own? | 21 provide a controlled crossing for pedestrians to get to and |
| 22 MS. WAGNER: Yes. So I reviewed the counts that | 22 from the many bus stops along Stillwater Avenue. And then, |
| 23 were provided to the community. Again, they are -- I hav | 23 the third driveway for the loading activity to really be able |
| 24 | 24 to separate the back of house operations from the rest of th |
| 25 this hearing, but was provided them both the video as well as | 25 site so that the trucks are not interacting with the |
| 353 | 355 |
| 1 the Excel spreadsheet that the soffware they used counted the | 1 residents and the pedestrians traveling in and out of the |
| 2 cars. We did not have access to that software and just | 2 community. |
| 3 relied on manually counting the cars in slow motion vide | 3 I also heard references to trucks backing into |
| 4 that we just watched the video slo | 4 that loading area. The design of the loading area off that |
| 5 And I watched the first 10 minutes of the video | 5 loading access driveway will be done in a way that trucks |
| 6 and in my estimation -- or in my counting there were 168 cars | 6 will not be able to back -- they will not be inclined to back |
| 7 that traveled through the intersection during that first 10 | 7 up, that there will be plenty of maneuvering space within the |
| 8 minute time period and the spreadsheet indicated there were | 8 site for the trucks to pull into the loading area. |
| 9325 vehicles that traveled through the intersection at that | 9 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And can you just review |
| 10 time. So we're estimating that the video count soffware used | 10 for us, you know, there was questions about the traffic study |
| 11 almost doubled the traffic counts that were actually in the | 11 and how it -- what standards it adhered to, how it was |
| 12 video. | 12 reviewed. I know you touched on this in your direct |
| 13 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And with regard to the | 13 testimony but if you can just walk us through it one more |
| 14 request for traffic signals at both Stillwater and Flanders, | 14 time with regard how it's prepared, how it's reviewed? |
| 15 can you address how those signals may or may not meet | 15 MS. WAGNER: Yes. So we scoped our traffic study |
| 16 applicable warrants and how SHA would review those? | 16 with park and planning staff, with SHA and MCDOT in the fall |
| 17 MS. WAGNER: Yes. SHA is very stringent on where | 17 of 2020. The reason I don't give an exact date is because we |
| 18 traffic signals are allowed to be placed. They have the | 18 have ongoing discussions with staff about all of the things |
| 19 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Device that they rely on. | 19 that each agency would like to see in our traffic study. And |
| 20 And in that, there are traffic signal warrants that need to | 20 coordinating background developments to be included. How to |
| 21 be examined for any location a traffic signal is proposed. | 21 handle school not being fully in session and how to take that |
| 22 They have very strict traffic -- the number of vehicles that | 22 into consideratio |
| 23 have to be at that intersection. | 23 We submitted the first round of the LATR traffic |
| 24 And in my estimations, looking at the numbers that | 24 study on December 18th, 2020. We then received comments from |
| 25 we have projected just during the peak hours at those | 25 MCDOT and SHA and performed, as I noted yesterday, performed |


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| 1 a supplemental analysis using the 2013 and 2016 traffic | 1 safety concerns. And so to kind of address what we were |
| 2 counts. And that original supplemental analysis was | 2 talking about yesterday as far as why are we -- that we want |
| 3 submitted to staff on April 30th of 2021. And then, as this | 3 transit oriented development the new growth and |
| 4 is very typical with traffic studies, that based on the | 4 infrastructure policy does take that into consideration by |
| 5 original findings that then Staff has comments and we w | 5 setting out goals for getting people out of cars and to |
| 6 together to resolve those comments and submit one final | 6 provide that infrastructure to allow people to do that and |
| 7 study. | 7 not just focusing solely on mitigating |
| $8 \quad$ So we submitted the final LATR traffic study to | 8 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And one last question. |
| 9 park and planning staff to fulfill their requirements that | 9 In response to the testimony we recently heard from Mr. |
| 10 had to have counts done in a certain timeframe to meet thein | 10 Burdin, is it your understanding that during the pandemic |
| 11 standards and then we also submitted the additiona | 11 Metro ridership has decreased? |
| 12 supplemental analysis on August 24th, 2021 to meet the | 12 <br> MS. WAGNER: Yes. That is -- not only has it |
| 13 concerns of MCDOT and SHA staf | 13 decreased as a result of the pandemic and individuals |
| 14 I would also like to point out that we | 14 teleworking there has also been significant construction on |
| 15 this was a concern about doing a traffic study during the | 15 the Red line for the last nine months that has also severely |
| 16 pandemic and so we collected additional | 16 impacted Metro ridership and there is even, just based on my |
| 17 December of 2021. These were done on a typical weekday. | 17 personal experience that I rode the Metro every single day |
| 18 They were done during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours and we | 18 and have taken it a handful of times in the past two years. |
| 19 found that the counts collected in December of 2021 wer | 19 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. That's all I had for Ms. |
| 20 lower than what we included in our supplemental analysis and | 20 Wagner. |
| 21 this is all detailed in Exhibit 58C |  |
| 22 I would also | 22 much, ma'am. Do we have any cross, or I guess surrebuttal |
| 23 licensed professional engineer in the State of Maryland | 23 question, but limited to the testimony that Ms. Wagner just |
| 24 well as a professional transportation operations engineer and | 24 offered, starting with Mr. Shaffer? |
| 25 the traffic studies are reviewed thoroughly by exper | 25 MR. SHAFFER: No, I don't. |
| 357 | 35 |
| 1 MNCPBC, SHA, and MCDOT. | 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And Mr. Burdin? |
| 2 MS. GIRARD: Thank you, Ms. Wagner. And then, the | 2 Mr. BURDIN: Yes, I do. Thank you. |
| 3 issue was raised, I guess during your cross and later about | 3 Ms. Wagner, you testified, and correct me if I'm |
| 4 Metro ridership and the assumptions that were taken in your | 4 mistaken, that the traffic light was not warranted at the |
| 5 traffic study about Metro usage. You had mentioned in your | 5 current Strathmore -- I mean the current Stillwater Academy |
| 6 direct testimony that the property had moved from an orange | 6 entrance intersection; did I get that right? |
| 7 to a red policy area and would be subject to different | 7 MS. WAGNER: No, that is not correct. I was |
| 8 traffic study requirements when it goes -- if and when it | 8 looking at future traffic volumes that are presented in the |
| 9 goes forward on different entitlements. Can you walk us | 9 LATR traffic study. |
| 10 through what the Metro usage assumptions will be in the - | 10 Mr. BURDIN: Okay. All right. Then I think I was |
| 11 now that it's in the red policy area? | 11 mistaken. I don't have any further questions. Thank you. |
| 12 MS. WAGNER: Yes. So as I discussed we will have | 12 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. |
| 13 to do an additional traffic study for the preliminary plan | 13 And thank you Ms. Wagner. I think that is the conclusion of |
| 14 application. This study will have to follow the new LATR | 14 our questions for Ms. Wagner at this time. |
| 15 guidelines that follow the growth and infrastructure policy | 15 Ms. Girard, did you have another rebuttal witness? |
| 16 that has been -- that was adopted on January 1, 2021. As | 16 MS. GIRARD: I do. I would like to recall Josh |
| 17 part of this adoption and relying -- really trying to focus | 17 Sloan. |
| 18 on pedestrian, bike transit, infrastructure within the | 18 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Sloan, there |
| 19 county, there are published non-auto mode share goals within | 19 you are, sir. It's a new day so we'll get you sworn in |
|  |  |
| 21 And so specifically in our study, in our policy | 21 Do you swear or affirm under the penalties of |
| 22 area that the project is located the non-auto mode share goal | 22 perjury that the testimony you're about to give is the truth, |
| 23 is 50 percent. So the new study will remove the focus from | 23 the whole truth and nothing but the truth? |
| 24 being the vehicular capacity to really providing quality and | 24 Mr. SLOAN: Yes, sir, I do. |
| 25 up to standard pedestrian bike transit and addressing any | 25 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. We have |


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| 1 your name and contact information from yesterday. Ms. Girard | 1 redevelopment parcels, on page 73 for those who want to look |
| 2 the witness is yo | 2 it up. And then page 80 to 81 actually laid out a lot |
| 3 MS. GIRARD: Mr. Sloan, you've been present today | 3 more -- not a lot more detail, a couple of paragraphs on |
| 4 at the hearing and heard the testimony from the community in | 4 recommendations to preserve green area, for environmental |
| 5 opposition, correct? | 5 protection, wildlife sanctuary, recreation, visual relief |
| 6 MR. SLOAN: Correct. | 6 they called it. |
| 7 suggestions that the LMA be approved conditionally and tied | $7 \quad$ And as staff noted, we are retaining the Academy |
| 8 to school capacity. Can you please address, I know you | 8 which was recommended at that time. And we replacing the |
| 9 touched on this in your direct, but if you can more fully | 9 retirement home, which is now vacant with a residential cat |
| 10 explain the connection of the LMA to adequate public | 10 facility very similar in use. And the redevelopment of this |
| 11 facilities and school capacity? | 11 property is actually allowing us to put about 5.7 acres of |
| 12 MR. SLOAN: Sure. One part of this is certainly | 12 land, currently unprotected land into conservation easements, |
| 13 the traffic study which we've been discussing in detail. The | 13 meeting the recommendations for environment protection, |
| 14 other that we can go into a little more detail is the | 14 creation of habitat providing the trail through it for |
| 15 adequacy of the schools. And under the fiscal 2022 a school | 15 recreation. And of course, visual relief as they called it, |
| 16 test, it was last published by park and planning, there are | 16 just generally a green amenity for people to see. |
| 17 utilization rates that are projected for 2025 and 2026 for | 17 So as staff found, and I agree with them this does |
| 18 the schools that this -- that serve this proposed community. | 18 meet the master plan recommendations from 1992. I wanted |
| 19 That's Walter Johnson High School, Tilden Middle School, | 19 make sure that was clearly distinct from the Grosvenor |
| 20 Garrett Park Elementary School. Right now, those are all | 20 Strathmore Metro area that put a green box around this, but |
| 21 projected to have utilization rates of 93.2 percent for | 21 it's not applicable to our findings. |
| 22 Walter Johnson, 83.6 for Tilden and 100.6 for Garrett Park | 22 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And you touched on this a |
| 23 Elementary. Under the new growth and infrastructure plan if | 23 little bit a minute ago. But there's been criticism about |
| 24 a school goes over 105 percent capacity there is | 24 the provision of open space on the site, particularly with |
| 25 utilization premium payment required. We're not there yet, | 25 regard to a recreational area with perhaps a playground for |
| 361 | 363 |
| 1 but it may be. We'll do a further test at preliminary plan | 1 future residents. Can you -- and also, there was criticism |
| 2 and depending on when approvals happen that test will be | 2 of the trial and it not being lit in previous testimony of |
| 3 required. But we still will be meeting the adequate public | 3 it not being paved. Can you address all of those concerns? |
| 4 facilities test to move forward with this development. | 4 MR. SLOAN: Sure. So in a case where we did not |
| 5 MS. GIRARD: And is that true of all three levels | 5 have two stream tributaries and we, like some others have |
| 6 of school? | 6 spoken on, are concerned about water quality, and |
| 7 MR. SLOAN: Correct. | 7 environmental quality, and habitat protection and actually |
| 8 MS. GIRARD: Okay. There was also mentioned | 8 enhancement. If this was -- if we didn't have those things |
| 9 earlier today, I guess this morning about the Grosvenor | 9 we would have a 5 acre central park or something with this |
| 10 master plan and the identification of this property as green | 10 same kind of density. But instead we focused our attention |
| 11 space. Can you address that? | 11 on turning those areas about -- over 30 percent of our |
| 12 MR. SLOAN: Yeah. One thing to clarify and it's | 12 property into green space for habitat protection rather than |
| 13 confusing because a minor master plan was adopted after, well | 13 an active recreational facility. |
| 14 after, the Grosvenor -- the North Bethesda Garret Park Master | 14 That said, and I understand we have not presented |
| 15 Plan which was approved in 1992. | 15 any detailed pictures of what this will look like yet. We |
| 16 A minor master plan for a section that basically | 16 are looking at ways to incorporate active recreational |
| 17 surrounds this -- the subject property to the west and the | 17 elements in and around those spaces and we have separate |
| 18 south went through and it did show pictures of this property | 18 spaces, lawn areas, seating areas, garden spaces and things |
| 19 in those maps, but those maps do not -- it does not -- that | 19 that we're trying to design now, that are going to be much |
| 20 master plan does not apply to this property. This property | 20 more than just a couple of seating areas with benches that |
| 21 is still under the 1992 North Bethesda Garrett Park Master | 21 were described by others. |
| 22 Plan and no new recommendations were made under that minor | 22 So it's a unique situation but we think it's |
| 23 master plan for this property. | 23 appropriate for the site and better serves the balancing of |
| 24 So we are still under the recommendations of the | 24 environmental protection with recreational amenities and the |
| 251992 master plan which put this site on its map as of the key | 25 proposed uses. We also had entered, and it's in the record |


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| 1 as an exhibit, the map that shows the local parks that are | 1 filtration media with the plantings in it and then it slowly |
| 2 around and within . 5 miles of the prope | 2 dischar |
| 3 There is, as noted earlier, Druid Drive | 3 We've also regraded the site so that about 1-1/2 |
| 4 Neighborhood Park is about a half a mile fromus. But also | 4 acres of current runoff that goes straight to Strathmore |
| 5 Garrett Park, Waverly Park and Garrett Park playground. | 5 Avenue, no longer will go to Strathmore Avenue and that's |
| 6 They're both within . 5 miles. The streets have sidewalks on | 6 causing some of the flooding issues, and then runoff of water |
| 7 them. We would be able to access those streets and sidewalks | 7 from the street directly into the stream. We will be able |
| 8 at the new intersection that will be signalized and then, | 8 capture that. All of that is important for filtering out |
| 9 across the service drive, as folks have brought up. So those | 9 pollutants, for reducing sediment, which is a problem and |
| 10 other facilities are nearby | 10 water quality quite often. |
| 11 With regard to the trail, becau | 11 And also, reducing the heat of the water that |
| 12 protected area staff requires, thus far, that it not be paved | 12 actually gets to the stream. All things are benefits for |
| 13 and that no lighting or structural elements be within tha | 13 water quality that are not there today. So impervious |
| 14 open space, and so we designed it as such, and not put any | 14 increases are exactly our focus of stormwater retention |
| 15 structures such as lighting or paving in there. We can | 15 areas, and that is why you will see a few bioretention are |
| 16 continue to look at that but we intend this trail to be open | 16 at the low point of our site, which is in the swoop in Street |
| 17 during daylight hours, not used for -- at nighttime and no | 17 C in the southwest of that street. And then lots of other |
| 18 encourage use at nighttime with lighting of the facility. | 18 little areas that will collect rooftops and street water, and |
| 19 And importantly, staff has agreed to put this into | 19 alley runoff before it gets to the stream |
| 20 a category 2 easement, whereas we won't have structures | 20 So water quality should actually be improving and |
| 21 there and impervious area, but we will be able to maintain | 21 that is our intent when we get to the stage 1 , stage 2 , and |
| 22 lower plantings and even some clipped lawn areas. And we'll | 22 then stage 3 permitting documents that we'll going through |
| 23 design our planting and layout of the grading and whatnot for | 23 over the next year or so. |
| 24 visibility under what are called CPTED principles, that's | 24 MS. GIRARD: And so you addressed quality, |
| 25 crime prevention through environmental design. It's the way | 25 quantity as well? I mean, is the quantity of water going to |
| 365 | 367 |
| 1 you lay out plantings, sight lines, grading, so that you can | 1 be downstream? |
| 2 see large areas and we can have so called eyes on. Usually, | 2 MR. SLOAN: So quantity is an odd thing that, not |
| 3 it's eyes on the street, but this is eyes on the trail from | 3 being an engineer, I'm still trying to get my head around. |
| 4 back yards, from adjacent streets so that it will be saf | 4 Because these facilities are meant more for quality control |
| 5 during those daylight hours, when it's being used. | 5 and improving water, but they also do meet a certain quality |
| 6 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And you touched a | 6 threshold that -- quantity threshold, that 1.8 inches is our |
| 7 bit on the environment. There was concerns about the | 7 target and we're exceeding that in our model so far. |
| 8 increase in impervious area suggest -- or proposed in thi | $8 \quad$ So a big piece of how these work is that they |
| 9 application creating detrimental drainage and run off to | 9 actually capture and slow down runoff so that downstream |
| 10 properties downstream. Can you please address that as well? | 10 flooding is actually -- there's this delay of the water |
| 11 MR. SLOAN: Sure. Yeah, that's also a concern of | 11 getting to the stream as it goes through this filtration |
| 12 ours and something that we have worked into the design. And | 12 system and slowly enters the streamflow. So you actually get |
| 13 stormwater management is typical to get your head around when | 13 a decrease in your concentrated flow of water during rain |
| 14 people are mostly used to seeing large ponds that collect | 14 events. So quantity, we certainly will be capturing some |
| 15 water and things like that. Those aren't used anymore. We | 15 water that will never get to the stream now, but other water |
| 16 use a lot of small, they're called micro bioretention | 16 that will get to the stream will get there after the peak |
| 17 planters spread out throughout the | 17 even of the rainstorm typically. |
| 18 And we use other things like modular wetlands, | 18 So we are addressing quantity as well, and will be |
| 19 which collect water and feed the roots of wetland type | 19 specifically focused on the quantity of water that's hitting |
| 20 species. We spread those out throughout the site and the | 20 roads. That's our first goal, clean that water up and then |
| 21 goal of current state regulations is to treat the runoff that | 21 rooftops. That's our second, and then third, of course, |
| 22 leaves your site, well to treat eth runoff before it leaves | 22 whatever sheet flow we get from landscaped areas and things |
| 23 your site so that that runoff would be qualitatively similar | 23 is our third priority area for capturing. |
| 24 to what are called woods in good condition. So we capture | 24 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. We also had discussion |
| 25 this 1.8 plus inches of rainwater. It goes through a | 25 both in your direct and then there was testimony today |


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| 1 regarding the -- what's referred to as the buffer area in | 1 paving, and a maximum depth of 3 feet |
| 2 Strathmore Avenue. Can you -- and I submitted just before | 2 We've also been required to |
| 3 lunchtime, I circulated to everyone (inaudible) participated | 3 between the curb and the shared use path that was required on |
| 4 the exhibits which hopefully no one has had problems | 4 the southbound. So we have eight feet of green space. We |
| 5 accessing | 5 have the 10 foot shared use path and then we have |
| 6 | 6 |
| 7 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: So for Mr. Shaff | 7 shoulder on the southbound will actually be -- will actually |
| 8 and Mr. Burdin, have you had the opportunity | 8 revert to green space. The reason we've got this -- that we |
| 9 at that document, or those two docume | 9 can't move all of the lanes to the south is because we ha |
| 10 MR. SHAFFER: | 10 to keep the centerline and the flow moveme |
| 11 appear to be | 11 through lanes as close to straight as we can across the |
| 12 Mr. BURDIN: Yes, I did | 12 intersection so we don't have a dangerous swerve or, you |
| 13 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Understood. So Ms. | 13 know, kind of zig |
| 14 Girard, if you're going to be asking Mr. Sloan questions | 14 And so we've split the difference between |
| 15 about either one of them we'll just do a very deta | 15 sides. We've got about a four foot offset on the south |
| 16 description of what we're going to be looking | 16 and a three foot offset on the north side to minim |
| 17 MS. GIRARD: Okay. Go ahead, Josh. Are you going | 17 impact to the north. So that kind of lays out the |
| 18 to share your screen with them? | 18 configuration and provides an overview for those most |
| 19 Mr. SLOAN: If that's acceptable, yes. | 19 concerned with this median buffer area. And the bus stop |
| 20 my screen. | 20 itself will shift two feet. So right now there's a sidewalk, |
| 21 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's fis | 21 it will shift two feet to the north, which is about to wher |
| 22 Mr. SLOAN: Okay. I want to keep Teams up so | 22 the -- there's a utility pole there right now and it's a lawn |
| 23 can see folks. Am I sharing? | 23 area. So no impact to the trees. |
| 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUM | 24 I don't know exhibit number we're going |
| 25 Mr. SLOAN: You see it. So what I'm showing now | 25 giving this. That's a description of that. |
| 369 | 371 |
| 1 is what I've titled conceptual right-of-way paving | 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. |
| 2 modifications. And this was something that we put together | 2 MR. SLOAN: I don't know, Erin, if I missed |
| 3 over the floating zone plan that in, hopefully, a mor | 3 anything on that piece. |
| 4 descriptive format can show people what our initial design | 4 MS. GIRARD: No, I think that was good |
| 5 working with MCDOT staff in particular for this left turn | 5 MR. SLOAN: The second exhibit that we produced is |
| 6 lane, how it will impact -- the left turn lane for westbound | 6 a little bit closer view of the bus stop. With our plan just |
| 7 movement into Street -- into the site via Street A, where the | 7 simply overlay. Our plan line work is red, overlayed onto an |
| 8 proposes signal is. | 8 aerial view, much closer to the bus stop. And then, it has |
| 9 So what we're doing is right now, there are two | 9 two images, one looking east and one looking west down the |
| 10 lanes, one eastbound and one westbound. And we understand | 10 street with the approximate area of what would become paved |
| 11 that there's an undersized shoulder on the north side that's | 11 for this through lane. |
| 12 kind of used as a third lane for when people are accessing | 12 And what we wanted to point out is that especially |
| 13 the school, and a police officer is directing traffic there. | 13 north of the -- well, not north. Sorry. East of the bus |
| 14 And then, there is a regularly sized shoulder on the south | 14 stop that area is entirely in grass right now and it is an |
| 15 side of Strathmore Avenue which kind of bumps in and out, | 15 area between utility poles and the existing shoulder. We'll |
| 16 strangely. | 16 have to move some signs and coordinate some coordination with |
| 17 And what we've been asked to do is -- for our | 17 SHA. But there are no trees significantly impacted by that |
| 18 frontage create a closed section of road which means putting | 18 area. And then the view looking west shows the bus stop area |
| 19 curbs on it and turning those lanes east of Street A into a | 19 and where it will be pushing two feet back along that between |
| 20 through westbound movement, a left turn movement, and a | 20 the utility pole and the existing curb now. |
| 21 through eastbound movement. That requires a feathering of | 21 There is a large Plane tree that we will minimize |
| 22 the pavement on the north side from zero feet where it ties | 22 root disturbance on around that area and maintain. And also, |
| 23 into existing pavement to zero feet with a little bow that is | 23 the larger shrubs around there. It's been my understanding |
| 24 a maximum of three feet. That's over about a 235 foot | 24 from the beginning and the direction that the -- what I've |
| 25 distance. It's about, you know, less than 500 square feet of | 25 heard the Applicants say in public and giving us direction on |


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| is that, it is our aim not to impact any of this significant vegetation in any way and that was the promise to the community. And that if SHA allows we'll even enhance that planting in that area. <br> You know, that said, this is SHA right-of-way. <br> SHA right-of-way runs from our property line on the south all the way to actually behind the sidewalk that's in front of the units to the north of Strathmore Avenue. So that entire service road and the trees and the sidewalk is, along with the median, is all within SHA right-of-way and their access permit will determine exactly how we make these improvements. And whether or not we're allowed to enhance the buffer and add plantings. <br> And I think the only last thing I want to say is <br> that we want to make sure people are cognizant of safety. <br> While the plantings are nice as a visual screen, and a <br> psychological screen, they don't reduce noise, technically, although psychologically it appears that way. But we also want to maintain visibility. There is a sidewalk there that 0 runs through to the service road and we don't want people -areas at a bus stop where people can hide or where people can't be seen by traffic. So we want to keep that in mind and just put that out there for when we're discussing the details of the design and planting enhancements around the bus stop in the future. | MR. SLOAN: Sure. Our original plan had one <br> entrance, our primary entrance at Street A and all other <br> circulation was internal with the service drive being <br> separate and that remains where the existing access point is <br> for St. Angela right now. <br> Working with staff they required a second entrance <br> to disperse traffic and give different options for people to <br> access Strathmore Avenue, both pedestrians and drivers. So <br> we took that requirement and worked on maintaining the <br> 10 primary entrance as our focal point for the community where <br> it will sort all three different uses, where it will serve <br> for fire and emergency access, and where it is the most safe, <br> effective, and efficient for our primary point to get into <br> and around the site. <br> The secondary access, we worked with staff to <br> align it with Stillwater and keep it at a size that would not <br> impact any environmental areas, but otherwise we were working <br> under a requirement of agency review for that. We think it <br> does provide some benefits. It does get us closer to the <br> Metro access at Strathmore Avenue that way and some other <br> elements. But I think from a land planning perspective it <br> was really driven by that dispersal of traffic required by <br> staff. <br> 24 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. That's all I had for Mr. <br> Sloan. |
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| ```So I'm hoping that will allay some of the concerns and make sure everyone understands our intent for this area. \\ MS. GIRARD: And just one point of clarification, \\ Mr. Sloan, and you may have already said this, but so the entirety of the median area is actually within the right-ofway for Strathmore Avenue? \\ MR. SLOAN: The entirety of the median area, the service road to the north, the lawn panel and the sidewalk to the north are all SHA right-of-way. \\ MS. GIRARD: Thank you. I guess with that I would move the admission of these two exhibits into the record. \\ HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Is there any \\ objection to the admission of what will become most likely, \\ Exhibit 85 and Exhibit 86? They are the two diagrams that \\ Mr. Sloan has just testified about. \\ MR. BURDIN: No. \\ MR. SHAFFER: No, I don't have any. \\ HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. Then once \\ they get a number they will come into the record at the conclusion of the hearing. \\ Were you done examining the witness? \\ MS. GIRARD: Just one last point and Ms. Wagner \\ hit on this as well, Mr. Sloan, but just from a land planning \\ standpoint, if you could please address the comment about \\ consolidation of the entrances?``` | HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you. Mr. <br> Shaffer, any questions for Mr. Sloan, again, limiting those <br> questions to his testimony on rebuttal? <br> MR. SHAFFER: Just quickly. The bus stop you <br> referred to will be at the corner of Strathmore and the <br> entrance to the -- the main entrance to the Academy, true? <br> MR. SLOAN: I'm sorry, I only caught half of that. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Shaffer, can <br> you repeat your question? You're a little bit -- it's <br> starting to fade out. <br> MR. SHAFFER: Okay. You said that there would be <br> a new bus stop installed at the entrance to the Academy on <br> both sides of the road; is that correct? <br> MR. SLOAN: There are current bus stops on both <br> sides of the road near the entrance to the Academy. Whether <br> they shift a little east or west along Strathmore will be <br> determined when the intersection is designed. But they will be around that area, yes. <br> MR. SHAFFER: As I understand from one of your <br> colleague's previous testimony those would be fully <br> (inaudible). <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: You had just asked <br> a question to Mr. Sloan regarding the relocation of the bus <br> stops on the north and the south sides of Strathmore Avenue <br> and Mr. Sloan was about to answer your question. So I will |


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| 1 let him complete his answer and we'll see if that does the | 1 MR. BURDIN: Yeah, sure. |
| 2 trick. | 2 MR. SLOAN: -- but it's what someone like a |
| 3 MR. SLOAN: I think that I heard before it cutting | 3 computer -- a not very computer savvy person can use. So |
| 4 off, the second part of the question was whether or not those | 4 about three feet. |
| 5 would be ADA accessible, and that is the intent that the | 5 MR. BURDIN: So there's a thin, what we'll call a |
| 6 redesign would meet ADA standards. | 6 thin shoulder, not a full-sized shoulder, but (inaudible). |
| 7 MR. SHAFFER: And what's the width of the sidewalk | 7 And that provides some safety protection from westbound |
| 8 leading up to the bus stop? | 8 on Strathmore for the people that are standing at that bus |
| 9 MR. SLOAN: The current sidewalk, I didn't measure | 9 stop; is that fair to say? |
| 10 that, but we typically have them at a four foot minimum, but | 10 MR. SLOAN: Yes, except when they're doing the |
| 11 we tend to like them closer to five or six feet. | 11 through traffic, but yes. |
| 12 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. But they will at least be a | 12 MR. BURDIN: Right. And in the schematic for what |
| 1336 inch passage to the -- | 13 you're proposing to do that thin shoulder doesn't exist at |
| 14 MR. SLOAN: Oh, yes. | 14 this point; is that correct? |
| 15 MR. SHAFFER: -- entrance to the bus shelter? | 15 MR. SLOAN: After the light this through lane |
| 16 MR. SLOAN: Yes. | 16 would transition and along this area we would be right up |
| 17 MR. SHAFFER: Okay. I have no further questions. | 17 against the sidewalk there. |
| 18 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. | 18 MR. BURDIN: Okay. So if later the SHA or some |
| 19 And Mr. Burdin, any questions for Mr. Sloan based upon his | 19 other government entity decided that the bus stop platform |
| 20 testimony? | 20 had to be bigger, or further away from the road, is that a |
| 21 MR. BURDIN: Yes, I do. | 21 possibility in your experience? |
| 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure. | 22 MR. SLOAN: It is. Is it okay if I bring up the |
| 23 MR. BURDIN: Mr. Sloan, how long is the proposed | 23 street view? |
| 24 left turn lane on your diagram? | 24 Mr. BURDIN: Sure. |
| 25 MR. SLOAN: Our conceptual layout is -- I don't | 25 MR. SLOAN: You can see in the bottom left |
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| 1 remember. I do know that we're going to have to go through | 1 photograph this is a street view looking east, the area |
| 2 another -- well, a very detailed round of design and queuing | 2 that's behind the bus stop now is entirely lawn area and |
| 3 analysis through SHA for the final design. Right now, we're | 3 there is this little kind of tag, this bump out where |
| 4 at about 186 feet. | 4 typically a bench or something would go. But we could do |
| 5 MR. BURDIN: Is that -- so is that what is | 5 something in that area without impacting any existing |
| 6 reflected on that exhibit? | 6 vegetation and provide a little more space between the street |
| 7 MR. SLOAN: That exhibit shows from the striped | 7 and the actual bus stop location. |
| 8 line on the east side and it becomes a solid line and stops | 8 MR. BURDIN: Okay. So you would -- but under that |
| 9 before Street A; that length is about 186 feet. | 9 scenario you would be putting cement where there is currently |
| 10 MR. BURDIN: Okay. Thank you. I asked because I | 10 grass; is that right? |
| 11 thought at one point there was talk of a 50 foot lane. I | 11 MR. SLOAN: Yep. |
| 12 just wanted to make sure if it was that or the longer one. | 12 MR. BURDIN: Okay. I just -- the people that live |
| 13 Is it possible to put up that first exhibit? | 13 on that street want to know the full story so I appreciate |
| 14 MR. SLOAN: I can bring it back up. You can see, | 14 that. Thank you. |
| 15 I just measured the length there. | 15 MR. SLOAN: Sure. |
| 16 MR. BURDIN: Okay. So currently, there is a | 16 MR. BURDIN: That's all I have. |
| 17 shoulder between the road and the bus stop, what I'll call | 17 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. I |
| 18 the platform, the cement part of the bus stop; is that right? | 18 see that Ms. Lide has her virtual hand raised. I can't tell |
| 19 MR. SLOAN: Right now, on the north side or the | 19 if that's with a question or from before? |
| 20 south side? | 20 MS. LIDE: No, it's with a question. |
| 21 MR. BURDIN: On the north side | 21 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. We're kind |
| 22 MR. SLOAN: On the north side, not. The lane -- | 22 of past that point. But what was your question, ma'am? |
| 23 well, there's about -- it looks like this is the edge of the | 23 MS. LIDE: My question is simply -- I really want |
| 24 current lane; about three feet and change roughly. You know, | 24 to understand why we were told that there would be no |
| 25 this is not a super accurate program -- | 25 encroachment, no carving into the green buffer zone. |


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| 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And I have heard | 1 understand that people have their own perceptions and we all |
| 2 that question before, so we're not -- I don't think it's | 2 feel that way |
| 3 relevant for the rebuttal response at this time, if that | 3 But there is a distinction between people's |
| 4 makes sense. Because I can't go back in time and know what | 4 perceptions as to how they will be impacted and how to |
| 5 was said and what wasn't. We can ond | 5 interpret information and a different reality that's based |
| 6 front of us right now. | 6 more in facts and studies and standards. And that, quite |
| 7 MS. LIDE: I understand that, but I'd like to go | 7 frankly, is why we have experts. I'm not going to pretend |
| 8 on the record and say I feel we were misled and we were told | 8 that I understand every aspect of every traffic study that |
| 9 something other than what was materially presented yesterday | 9 I'm associated with in my cases. They are very complicated |
| 10 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. | 10 and that's why people have to become experts in traffic |
| 11 understan | 11 engineering and transportation planning. The same with |
| 12 All right. Ms. Girard, any other rebuttal at | 12 stormwater. The same with land use. I mean, these are very |
| 13 time? | 13 specialized areas of expertise that go into a level of detail |
| 14 MS. GIRARD: I would just note, Josh, I -- Mr. | 14 that most lay people are not privy to or really can usually |
| 15 Sloan, I thought that you addressed that question to some | 15 understan |
| 16 extent as far as what your understanding was regarding | 16 So I would just note that while there has been a |
| 17 representations to the community? | 17 great deal of testimony today regarding people's feelings |
| 18 MR. SLOAN: I tried to. It was certainly our | 18 about what can happen, there really, in the evidence of |
| 19 direction in everything that I heard in public was that | 19 record is no substantial expert report analysis that |
| 20 did not want to remove any large vegetation, have any impacts | 20 contravenes anything that the Applicant's experts have |
| 21 to trees and that buffering plantings. But not with respect | 21 presented. And it's not just the Applicants' experts who |
| 22 to lawn and sidewalks and things that are under State Highwa | 22 have put forth these case -- the case materials and I believe |
| 23 control. | 23 have demonstrated that we meet all the standards for |
| 24 MS. GIRARD: That's all I have for Mr. Sloan. | 24 approv |
| 25 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, Mr. | 25 There is a very rigorous review that this needs to |
| 381 | 83 |
| 1 Sloan. Any other witnesses, Ms. Girard? | 1 go through. It first goes through technical staff. As Ms. |
| 2 MS. GIRARD: No, that concludes our case. | 2 Wagner mentioned there's staff devoted to traffic who |
| 3 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. So what | 3 understand all of that. There's experts in stormwater at the |
| 4 we will do now is give the parties the opportunity to provide | 4 department of permitting services. There's experts -- |
| 5 a closing argument. You do not have to avail yourself of | 5 there's actually three levels of experts for traffic. There |
| 6 this, but you're certainly welcome to. We'll try to keep | 6 is the State Highway Administration, the Montgomery County |
| 7 as clear and concise as possible. (inaudible) for a long | 7 Department of Transportation, and park and planning staff has |
| 8 time at this point but we certainly welcome a summary, a | 8 its own transportation people. |
| 9 summation of the arguments involved. And if the Applicant | 9 There's environment staff at park and planning, |
| 10 can give particular attention to the conditions that were | 10 there's environment staff at the department of permitting |
| 11 offered, in addition to those that we already have in the | 11 services. So this has undergone an extensive review by all |
| 12 record from the planning board submittal. | 12 of these experts and they concluded in their staff report |
| 13 So with that we'll open with Ms. Girard. | 13 that the local map amendment as presented to you should be |
| 14 MS. GIRARD: Thank you. And I will try to hit all | 14 approved. |
| 15 the conditions as well, and I think they're more semantically | 15 I would note that many of the, as I did in my |
| 16 because I think the same ones came up again and again. | 16 opening statement, many of the issues that have been raised |
| 17 So I really think that this is -- it's not a | 17 during these proceedings were also raise in front of the |
| 18 typical, in my -- I've been practicing for 21 years and it's | 18 planning board who, as you have heard, planning board staff |
| 19 not a typical where people have a perception of their | 19 met with many of the participants in this hearing, heard |
| 20 neighborhood. I think that we all do, and a perception is | 20 their concerns, and addressed them in a good amount of detail |
| 21 what's the existing conditions are, what traffic in the | 21 in section 5 of Exhibit 62, which is the staff report. |
| 22 future will be, what kind of impact a new building will have | 22 The same concerns have carried through to this |
| 23 on us. And I think we respect that. And I don't want to, | 23 proceeding, the first of which is the traffic study. And I |
| 24 you know, any of my cross-examination obviously I have to get | 24 do think that Ms. Wagner has laid out very methodically how |
| 25 that on the record, but I don't mean to imply that I don't | 25 the analysis was performed, what the numbers mean to the best |



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| 1 our commitment has never wavered that we would do it. But I | 1 findings for approval contained in 59.7.2.1.e of the zoning |
| 2 think there needs to be some kind of caveat there that | 2 ordinance have been met and that the local map amendment as |
| 3 recognizes that SHA does get the final say and they often | 3 submitted with the -- or the recent version of it with the |
| 4 don't give that final say until a future access permit -- I | 4 conditions recommended by the planning board and as I said, |
| 5 don't know why they do it that way. Again, we can't co | 5 with maybe perhaps the additional condition of the westbound |
|  | 6 turn lane and signal requirement, subject to SHA approval, is |
| 7 | 7 warranted. |
| 8 understand, and this request comes up in a number of cases. | 8 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, Ms. |
| 9 I understand the desire to do that. There's a number of | 9 Gir |
| 10 complications with that kind of request. If you were to do | 10 Mr. Shaffer, any closing arguments, sir |
| 11 it at build out to really test the traffic, at that point in | 11 MR. SHAFFER: (inaudible). Yes, I'll make a few |
| 12 time the homes will have been sold and turned over to an H | 12 |
| 13 And I don't -- you know, they -- I don't think that HOA would | 13 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. |
| 14 be very happy to have to conduct a study and then to make any | 14 MR. SHAFFER: In contrast to Ms. Girard's 21 years |
| 15 improvements that would be requir | 15 of practice, I'm almost up to 40 now. And in those years in |
| 16 Although, I would note that as Ms. | 16 which I've done mostly class action litigation, I've rarely |
| 17 time and again, our assumptions are extremely conservative | 17 had a case where there wasn't an expert witness opposed by an |
| 18 and they're based on hard data that is dictated to us by the | 18 equally qualified and equally of the opinion to the contrary |
| 19 county and the country as far as ITEA rates. I mean, this is | 19 expert witness. So I take what the Applicant has given with |
| 20 not something that the county takes lightly to project | 20 a grain of salt. |
| 21 traffic generation. | 21 You know, as a community association we've done |
| 22 I can't tell you that I have at my fingertip | 22 our best as lay people, apparently fairly well-educated lay |
| 23 supporting that they work, but certainly they sure do spend a | 23 people, to come up with our best analysis of how we feel |
| 24 lot of time looking at it and I think that the county process | 24 based upon our knowledge of the community this is going to |
| 25 is set up such that they have set forth detailed guidelines | 25 impact our operations. |
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| 1 as to how traffic studies should be conducted. We have | 1 But I ask that the Hearing Examiner take that fact |
| 2 followed that. We anticipate that the -- we have made it | 2 into account that experts often disagree and -- I would |
| 3 extra conservative and we anticipate that that will result in | 3 almost always disagree |
| 4 very accurate information at the end of the day. But I don't | 4 I think the starting point here is whether this |
| 5 think it's fair, again, I think that would set a dangerous | 5 application is wholly suited to the purpose of transit only |
| 6 precedent to add an extra condition that says that at some | 6 or development because even though some testimony has be |
| 7 indefinite point in the future you need to go out and retest | 7 given about how conservative that number is for transit use |
| 8 and then put further improvements in place. | 8 instead they have put in writing that transit use is going to |
| $9 \quad$ On that point, I would also note with the movement | 9 be minimal. That doesn't seem to be the kind of joint |
| 10 to the new policy area with a red policy area I don't know | 10 development project that Metro has been envisioning along th |
| 11 how that study would be conducted or what it would look like | 11 Red line and down into PG County. |
| 12 because as Ms. Wagner noted in the red policy area when a | 12 That we simply don't have a transit ori |
| 13 future traffic analysis the emphasis will be on pedestrians | 13 community here. It looks like from what the descriptions it |
| 14 and bicyclists and non-auto modes of travel. And that will | 14 will be a nicely designed and pretty community. And for that |
| 15 be done as part of the preliminary plan process. So I think | 15 I think we congratulate them. But we do differ on some major |
| 16 the assumption that it would -- you would count cars in the | 16 aspects. And the one aspect that I found most troubling |
| 17 future would be contrary to what the governing -- the | 17 about the entire presentation was the lack of any |
| 18 currently governing growth policy dictates for the property. | 18 consideration of the fiture. |
| 19 So in conclusion I think based on everything in | 19 Although the traffic expert acknowledge that they |
| 20 the record, the reviews by the county agencies, the staff | 20 took into account all developments that were currently |
| 21 report in favor, the planning board recommendation in favor, | 21 approved in the area in their numbers, the stormwater |
| 22 all of the expert testimony that we have presented yesterday | 22 drainage analysis simply stated it did not consider climate |
| 23 and today the weight of the evidence is definitely in support | 23 change at all. He was simply measuring the effect of the |
| 24 of the application. | 24 stormwater drainage plan on what would happen today. This |
| 25 And we believe we've demonstrated that all | 25 project isn't even going to be built today. Two years from |


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| now who knows how much water we'll be getting, 10 years from now, 30, 40, 50. <br> This is both international, national and state and county policy to consider climate change in all agency considerations. It's a Biden executive order and I notice that Governor Hogan was one of the early ones to join with the climate change movement. I don't feel that this study is even appropriate to be introduce in the evidence except for what it is, a measure of stormwater impact today. That doesn't project the impacts of this project in the future on the environment, the tributary that runs into Rock Creek Park, their estimate effect on Rock Creek Park 40 years from now or any of these considerations. And I think this is a major substantive fault. <br> Putting aside that, I think the -- assuming that <br> those considerations are taken into account in some way, shape or form, or a condition that those conditions be taken into account be added to this any findings that you might make. The thing really is just one big old hill. And it's all coming down towards us at the bottom. <br> I would -- I won't go over again the <br> considerations that we asked for that Kip Edwards testified <br> to. They're in the record now and they've been rebutted by <br> 24 Ms . Girard, so I won't go through those again. <br> 25 I think our bottom line is we accept this | approved under R60, under some kind of zoning variance. And so I recognize that the current zoning allows some development, but the question is what kind of development. And if the rezoning is denied I'm confident these Applicants could do something -- do some redesigning and propose -- and build something within the R60 zoning that currently exists. <br> The transit issue, obviously, many times the point <br> has been made about the traffic study, asserting the use of transit would be minimal. I understand they reached that conclusion based on parameters and they were required to use. But the report did not question this conclusion or present evidence that the use would actually be more. You would think if they had it, they would have presented it. <br> And despite Ms. Girard's very good point that my <br> observations about Metro views from Symphony Park all occurred during COVID, not something that had occurred to me, my opinion still is that the Metro views from Symphony Park even under normal circumstances would at least be relatively minimal. <br> Obviously, the big issue is the traffic and <br> increased traffic adding, I think 125 homes as proposed and a <br> large residential care facility will undisputedly add cars to <br> Strathmore Avenue. Yet somehow, even with this added traffic <br> the traffic consultant concludes that two adjustments to the <br> layout of the roads will virtually eliminate about 440 |
| development, it's a nice development, it looks like it's multigenerational, it has a lot of good qualities to it for the property on which it's situated. But has it been designed appropriately and I don't think that questions been answered yet by what we've seen before us. <br> Thank you. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, sir. <br> And having cut my teeth in insurance defense litigation I can appreciate your note about expert witnesses at the beginning of your closing argument. <br> Mr. Burdin, any closing argument from you, sir? <br> MR. BURDIN: Yes, thank you. First of all, I <br> would like to say that I appreciate the manner that you have <br> run this hearing. I think it's been smooth and fair and I do <br> appreciate that. <br> HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you. <br> MR. BURDIN: Now, the residents of the surrounding <br> neighborhoods, including myself, are the ones that will <br> suffer the consequences of the zoning change and approval of <br> the project. It would construct more, and denser homes than <br> would be allowed under the current R60 zoning. The proposed <br> project also would include the Brandywine 150 bed residential <br> facility with up to 35 employees at the facility at the peak <br> time. <br> 25 My understanding is that that facility might be | seconds of delay that currently exists under the existing conditions. <br> I think the consultant admitted that eliminating <br> the Stillwater offsets, which is one of the two on the ground changes, would only offer minor reductions of the delay. And that neither of the proposed on the ground changes addresses delays caused by cars going westbound on Strathmore turning into the Academy, which is a big source of the current delay. She, in my view, was unable to explain in layman's terms how these two changes would create a 40 times reduction in the delay at that intersection. And I think that undermines all conclusions -- related conclusions in the study on the issue. <br> The same concern applies to the reduction in delay reported in the supplemental analysis, which seems to be what they want to rely on more now. Plus, we have what I think is 6 a very curious fact that the supplemental analysis starts with an existing condition delay that is less than the LATR delay for the a.m. peak at that intersection. But in the future conditions, the supplemental analysis projected delay is higher, the 77 seconds versus the 10.7 seconds in the LATR. <br> And I just -- I can't understand this. The <br> parameters were -- I know there were some differences, but both relied on the 2013 historic counts as a starting point and then there were adjustments. The LATR did also look to |


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| counts from 2005, but it did note that those counts were | 1 affect to the traffic because I think the officer would be |
| 2 consistent with the 2013 counts. So I just can't figure out | 2 more effective than the traffic light. |
| w these different reductions come out. I guess it's a | 3 Finally, Mr. Sloan testified, I think several |
| 4 somewhere in the modeling which I can't understand. The | 4 times, that there is still a lot of planning leff to do. And |
| 5 technical attachments are incomprehensible to a layperso | 5 the Maryland SHA did not want to testify because they said my |
| 6 again, I think it undermines the conclusions about traffic. | 6 concerns, when I raised them to them before the planning |
| 7 Now, the developer chose not to just point to the | 7 board hearing, could be addressed later. And frankly, the |
| TR to conclude that no mitigation was required as is the | 8 whole thing about the 40 times reduction in the delay seemed |
| 9 conclusion that report. Which in that report was accepted by | 9 news to them. I don't know how they missed it. They seem to |
| 10 the planning staff with little mention of the supplemental | 10 think it was a good concern that they didn't want to address |
| 11 analysis with the whole traffic light, left turn signal | 11 it until lat |
| 12 issue. Instead, the developer has said they are committed to | 12 I'm trying to figure out where I am |
| 13 funding a traffic light and left turn lane on Strathmore. | 13 So try to sum it up, you are being asked to |
| 14 It 's not certain that those will occur as they require | 14 recommend an action to the county council and they will be |
| 15 approval from the Maryland SHR. | 15 asked whether to approve this zoning change in the face of |
| 16 And there is also uncertainty about whether even | 16 this uncertainty, and planning that has not yet occurred. I |
| 17 with the two on the ground changes and even with the traffic | 17 suggest that anything that is not certain to occur should not |
| 18 light and leff turn signal that it will actually mitigate the | 18 be considered, or at least, should be weighed with some kind |
| 19 traffic problem, which one reason I suggested this study | 19 of skepticism |
| 20 afterwards when the proposed project is up and rumning to | 20 If there is some way to ensure the traffic light |
| 21 if all these projections have any basis in reality, or we | 21 and left turn lane and continued use of the police officer |
| 22 still have a huge problem made worse by this development. | 22 were certain to occur, it would help. I think my second |
| 23 But as we heard there is pushback from the Applicant about | 23 condition about the study would also help. Now, Ms. Girard |
| 24 even doing this. | 24 asserted that the planning staff and the MCDOT and the |
| 25 And one of my concerns about the whole application | 25 Maryland HSA (sic) have reviewed and essentially signed off |
| 397 | 399 |
| process and the approval but board and the ultimate approval | 1 on this proposal. I want to note that none of them testified |
| 2 going forward is that there are a lot of uncertainties. You | 2 at this hearing. And so none of them were subject to cross- |
| 3 know, in addition to the traffic and traffic light, the | 3 examination. So to the extent their actions and reports are |
| 4 extension of the proposed property path beyond its eastern | 4 relied on, again, I think they should be weighed with |
| 5 boundary depends on the granting of a property right to the | 5 skepticism because they were not subject to cross- |
| 6 developer from the church across the church's property. And | 6 examination. |
| 7 without this extension is my view that this path is virtually | And finally, just remember what I started with |
| 8 worthless. And it undermines the walkability argument for | 8 that the negative impacts of this zoning change fall on the |
| project. | 9 neighbors, but the benefits of the expanded zoning will |
| 10 The newly disclosed potential path from the | 10 benefit the developer. Thank you very much. |
| 11 proposed development's western path across the creek to link | 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you very |
| 12 up with the Symphony Park path would require agreement from | $12 \mathrm{much}, \mathrm{sir}$. |
| 13 Symphony Park homeowners, which is uncertain to occur, and | 13 So that concludes the testimony and argument state |
| 14 probably wouldn't. The developer's civic engineer was not | 14 of this LMA hearing. Going forward the process is that I |
| 15 even aware of this idea. And the landscape consultant, to | 15 have 45 days from the close of the record in this case to |
| 16 his credit, agreed it would not be an easy thing to do even | 16 issue my recommendation to the county council, sitting as the |
| 17 with the approval from Symphony Park. | 17 district council. Any party who is not satisfied with that |
| 18 The statement yesterday and today that Holy Cross | 18 recommendation can request oral argument in front of the |
| 19 Acadeny is committed to having a police officer at the school | 19 county council. |
| 20 entrance even if there is a traffic signal and left turn | 20 The exhibits that are currently up on our web |
| 21 lane, it was news to me. It's not anywhere in the record | 21 pages, which are Exhibits 1 through 80, unless there's any |
| 22 that I'm aware of before her statement yesterday -- or her | 22 objection to an induvial exhibit, will be admitted into the |
| 23 statement today. But even if the Academy honors that | 23 record. We also have three -- four to five additional |
| 24 commitment initially there is uncertainty whether they would | 24 exhibits which have been introduced here today, which will |
| 25 continue to do it. So if they stop, obviously that would | be admitted into the record. They will be exhibitized |


| 400 | 402 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 and added to the record. As I mentioned before, I don't have | 1 we will submit the stormwater calculations. Whatever Mr. |
| 2 those exhibit numbers right now, but they will be Exhibits 81 | 2 Amateau agreed to provide, we will provide that in the next |
| 3 through 85, I believe, or 86. They will also be admitted | 3 couple of days. |
| 4 into the record. | 4 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you. It was |
| $5 \quad$ With that were there any final issues that needed | 5 volume impervious area -- |
| 6 we needed to address before we close this hearing today? | 6 MS. GIRARD: Yes. |
| 7 MS. GIRARD: I don't have -- | 7 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And there as one or |
| 8 MR. SHAFFER: One final thing. This Mr. Shaffer. | 8 two other calculations that went into that. But yes, that |
| 9 There was -- we were having trouble uploading Kip Edwards | 9 would be great and we'll include that as an exhibit. |
| 10 video to introduce as evidence. Has that been now made part | 10 All right. With that -- |
| 11 of the record or are we still trying to find a way to get | 11 MS. BENNET: Mr. Baumgardner, this is Gerrilee |
| 12 that to you? | 12 Bennett from the town of Garrett Park. I just had a |
| 13 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I don't believe we | 13 logistical question about the public availability of the |
| 14 have introduced that into the record. I remember seeing -- I | 14 exhibits after the hearing because your website indicates |
| 15 remember being copied on an email quite a while ago on that. | 15 they all get removed after the hearing so that you can |
| 16 But I don't know what ever happened to that request. | 16 prepare for the next hearing. So it's unclear to me whether |
| 17 What was that video of? | 17 by keeping the record open all of these exhibits will be |
| 18 MR. SHAFFER: That was the traffic count. | 18 still publicly available on your website. I just want to |
| 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. | 19 make sure we don't miss the opportunity to download all the |
| 20 MR. EDWARDS: The email had -- this is Kip | 20 new materials. |
| 21 Edwards. The email that I sent submitting it had a link to | 21 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure. So the |
| 22 the file. | 22 website is a bit of mirage. It's merely what we think is the |
| 23 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. | 23 most updated versions of things. The actual record itself is |
| 24 MR. EDWARDS: The video file online. It was too | 24 the paper file. So that's what's kept in perpetuity, for at |
| 25 large to send over email, obviously. | 25 least for seven years. So for those future exhibits, you're |
| 401 | 403 |
| 1 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure. Sure. So | 1 welcome to email our staff and then we can send those to you |
| 2 what we're going to do, we're going to keep the record open | 2 either in PDF or word format depending upon what format they |
| 3 for 10 days after today's date anyway. That's to get a copy | 3 are in. |
| 4 of the transcript. So in those -- in that window of 10 days | 4 So that website will come down. We have a hearing |
| 5 Ms. Girard, is there any objection for at least viewing that | 5 on Friday, so those exhibits will likely come down in the |
| 6 video to see its contents and then we can, at that point, | 6 very near future. But they will all remain available and |
| 7 decide whether or not it comes in as a separate exhibit? | 7 accessible. We may just have to email them to parties that |
| 8 MS. GIRARD: No, we were aware of the video at the | 8 requested them |
| 9 planning board and Ms. Wagner already testified to it, so we | $9 \quad$ All right. Any other questions? All right. We |
| 10 don't have an objection. | 10 thank everyone for your time. We think the court reporter as |
| 11 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. So I will | 11 well for his time, and we are going off the record in LMA |
| 12 view it, just in camera and then if there's -- you know, I | 12 143. It is February 1, 2022, the time is approximately 3:27 |
| 13 don't -- based upon that testimony and the fact that it was | 13 p.m. |
| 14 already in front of the planning board and we have a | 14 We thank everyone for your time and your |
| 15 voluminous exhibit from the planning board that is included | 15 testimony, and have a good rest of your Tuesday afternoon. |
| 16 in the record, I don't think that will have a problem coming | 16 (The recording was concluded.) |
| 17 in as a separate exhibit. | 17 |
| 18 How we do that, I'll have to ask staff about how | 18 |
| 19 we physically take that digital file and include that in the | 19 |
| 20 record because to be honest, I don't know how we do that. | 20 |
| 21 But I can let you all know how that will transpire after I | 21 |
| 22 talk with staff about that. | 22 |
| 23 Any other final issues or questions before I close | 23 |
| 24 today's hearing? | 24 |
| 25 MS. GIRARD: I just wanted to note that we do -- | 25 |

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