

From: [R. Shaibani](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Nov 19, 2020: Item 4-portions of Westbard and Ridgefield Rd Abandonment No.Ab-773
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 7:00:11 PM

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From residents:
Raquel and Sanan Shaibani
5517 Westbard Ave
Bethesda, Md 20816
Rshaibani@yahoo.com

To The Montgomery County Planning Board and Chair Casey Anderson,

This letter is written in regards to residents views on the Abandonment of Portions of Westbard Ave and Ridgefield Rd. Our family of 6, which include 4 children, reside at 5517 Westbard.

Over the last few years the traffic on our street has significantly gotten worse. Our neighbors conducted our own traffic study in 2017 and another was done in early 2020. Even after changes were implemented by MCDOT (such as new speed humps/new speed signs and no left turn sign onto River Rd.) the traffic has actually increased and the no left turn signage is mostly ignored.

Daily, several large trucks take the short cut through Westbard (ignoring both the weight/speed limit signs) which make it quite noisy and dangerous throughout the day and into the evening.

The noisy street and constant barrage of vehicles and large trucks is distressing but another big concern is the safety of my children and my elderly neighbors who traverse on our street frequently. There have been too many occasions where we will be walking only to become annoyed and frustrated at the speeding vehicles. Specifically a few years ago my older daughter was almost hit by a car that was trying to get past the light on the corner of Ridgefield and Westbard. Another child was actually hit by a vehicle on the Westbard/Ridgefield rd intersection in 2015. The speeding and high traffic count on Westbard is a common occurrence and a constant imminent and dangerous situation. With the impending construction of the Westwood area, I believe the predicament will just get worse. The Realignment and Abandonment of Portions of Westbard and Ridgefield Road should be done ASAP and is of utmost importance for the safety of ALL the residents especially the most vulnerable: the children and elderly who walk the street multiple times a day. The failure of the board to act on this matter will hold all members negligent in the event of any unfortunate mishap.

Respectfully,
Raquel and Sanan Shaibani

From: [DJ](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Permanent closure of the residential portion of Westbard Avenue in Bethesda
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:24:58 PM

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To: Montgomery County Planning Board
Subject : Proposed permanent closure of the residential portion of Westbard Avenue in Bethesda

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

I understand the Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a hearing to seek residents views regarding the abandonment of portions of Westbard Avenue and Ridgefield Road.

Since 1998 my family and I have been living on Westbard Avenue in a house near intersection with River Road. .

Over that extended period we have witnessed rapidly increasing traffic of passenger and commercial vehicles.

Needless to say noise and air pollution grew rapidly too. We hear heavy trucks passing by rattling our windows late in the night or squeaking sound of abrupt vehicle braking at the intersection. Being situated near the intersection with busy River Road

we witnessed many accidents engaging traffic coming in or out from River Road and Westbard Avenue.

Also, we observed vehicles entering from River Road at high speed thus endangering residents including children when walking or crossing Westbard Avenue.

To reduce traffic volumes and accidents on the residential section of Westbard Avenue (between Ridgefield and River Road) Montgomery County placed new traffic sign "no left turn" from Westbard Avenue to River Road and a concrete triangle at the end of Westbard Avenue at River Road to force traffic to make right turn on River Road. Unfortunately we noticed that many drivers continue to make dangerous left turn from Westbard Ave. to River Road. Montgomery County effort to mitigate the traffic problem has not been successful so far. Traffic counts carried out in 2017 and in 2020 show only marginal impact i.e. a minor decline of light traffic but increase of trucks and buses using residential section of Westbard Avenue.

I understand that 2016 Westbard Sector Plan endorsed closure of our street between Ridgefield and River Road.

In order to bring permanent solution to the growing problems listed above, my family and I fully support closure of Westbard Avenue residential portion at River Road. My neighbours in Westbard Avenue that I spoke with have same view.

Sincerely,

George Jovanovic

5528 Westbard Avenue

Bethesda MD 20816

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