

Resident's Input to MCDOT Public Hearing on Dec. 15

Alicia Khadduri <abk656@aol.com>

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To: Willis, Eric <Eric.Willis@montgomerycountymd.gov>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Reference: Public Hearing on Dec. 15 for Abandonment of Portions of Westbard Ave. and Ridgefield Rd. in Bethesda, AB 773

To: Mr. Eric Willis
Chief, Property Acquisition Section
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

From: Alicia and Farid Khadduri
Street Address: 5526 Westbard Ave, Bethesda 20816
Email: abk656@aol.com

Dear Sirs,

We first wish to thank the MCDOT for their time and attention regarding the plan to abandon portions of Westbard Ave. and Ridgefield Rd. in Bethesda in order for Regency Centers (the developer) to build a new road that runs from River Road toward the shopping center (running through the existing Westwood II building, which will be demolished). We much appreciate their consideration in seeking resident views to assist their decision.

We have lived on Westbard Ave near the intersection with River Road for over 45 years and are pleased to submit our perspective.

We strongly endorse the plan to realign Westbard Ave and offer the following in support of this conclusion:

- Over the years, truck traffic has significantly increased in violation with the weight restrictions clearly posted at each end of the 5500 Block of Westbard. This poses a safety risk to the residents of this Block of Westbard which include a number of small children and elderly people.
- Auto traffic has also significantly increased both in volume and speed. Autos routinely ignore the "No Left Turn" sign at the River Road end of Westbard causing accidents and endangering the pedestrian crosswalk at that intersection.
- Autos making the right turn from River Road to Westbard are often speeding. This poses a particular danger to our end of Westbard when we exit our driveway just a few feet from this intersection. An example of how fast cars make this turn occurred recently when a driver making the right turn was traveling so fast that he lost control, smashed into the median island which required his car to be towed away. Thankfully the median strip prevented the worst case scenario (which has occurred several times) of a head-on collision with oncoming traffic.
- The "No Right Turn" restriction from River to Westbard from 7:00 am to 9:00 am is routinely ignored adding to excessive congestion on our street.

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weight restrictions and cause even more safety and noise concerns. Realignment of Westbard will provide a safe alternative access to the Development construction site.

Thank you again for the opportunity for us to provide our perspective and recommendation to proceed with the plan to realign Westbard Ave.

Best,

Alicia and Farid Khadduri