

Testimony for 12-15-2020 DOT Hearing

Sun 12/20/2020 10:00 AM

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

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Eric,

Below is my written testimony for the December 15, 2020 hearing by DOT.

Happy Holidays!

Best,

Jenny Sue

December 15, 2020 Hearing by DOT Testimony by Jenny Sue Dunner

Good day. I am testifying today as an individual.

I wish to thank Chairman Anderson and members of the Planning Board for their recognition and understanding of the issue of cut-thru traffic in Kenwood. It is this understanding that led them to direct DOT and the State Highway Administration to work with the Kenwood community to develop a design and operations plan for the River Road/Brookside Drive intersection to better protect Kenwood from cut-thru traffic. The plan is spelled out under the heading of Neighborhood Protection and may be found on page 19 of the "Approved and Adopted Westbard Sector Plan – July 2016."

I also would be remiss if I did not thank Glen Orlin in his memorandum to the PHED Committee of the Montgomery County Council dated February 25, 2016, where the Council Staff recommended the language I just referred to concerning the issue of cut-thru traffic in Kenwood. As a longtime admirer of Mr. Orlin, it is a pleasure to thank him for his work on this memorandum, which is of great importance to the Kenwood community.

My views on the issue of a traffic light at the intersection of the proposed realigned Westbard Avenue and Ridgefield Road are well represented by Lynn Battle in the written testimony she submitted on behalf of the Westbard Study Group. As a member of the study group, I strongly support her testimony.

In addition, the recent County concept of "Complete Streets" further supports the inclusion of a traffic light at this intersection. Indeed, "Complete Streets" are defined as roadways that are designed to

provide safe, accessible and healthy travel for all users of the roadway system, including pedestrians, bikers, transit riders and motorists. This safety concept document provides a one step guide for designing new streets and reconstructing existing streets. The "Complete Streets" concept is an important tool in support of the County's Vision Zero Plan.

I applaud the safety "for all" concept and not for one particular group or organization and urge the County to implement this approach to install a traffic light at this intersection.

Thank you.

Jenny Sue Dunner