

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 11, 2021

TO: Gwen Wright, Planning Director

VIA: Carrie Sanders, Chief, Mid-County Planning Division *CS*
Jessica McVary, Supervisor, Mid-County Planning Division *JM*

FROM: Walker Freer, Planner Coordinator, Mid-County Planning Division *WF*

SUBJECT: Comments on Right-of-Way Abandonment AB776 – Holdridge Road

The Montgomery County Planning Department received an application (AB776) on August 5, 2021, requesting review of a petition for the abandonment of the public right-of-way between 12501 Holdridge Road and 12505 Holdridge Road in Silver Spring. The subject right-of-way is approximately 42 feet by 114 feet. Planning staff have reviewed the petition for abandonment and determined that the Department does not support the abandonment of this right-of-way and hereby transmits a recommendation of denial to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT).

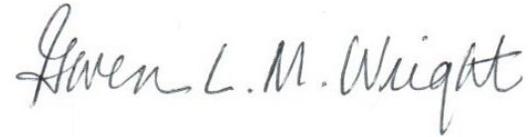
The subject right-of-way for this abandonment petition is in the 2013 *Glenmont Sector Plan*. The Sector Plan recommends the removal of an extension of Flack Street through the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) property (between Denley Road and Urbana Drive) that was originally recommended by the 1997 *Sector Plan for the Glenmont Transit Impact Area and Vicinity*. As the 2013 Sector Plan notes on page 30: “Recent improvements on the WMATA Triangle of a garage and a stormwater management pond impact both projects and preclude this intersection. This Plan removes the recommended Flack Street connection and the Glenallan Avenue extension.”

Although there is currently no Sector Plan recommendation to improve the subject right-of-way, Planning staff does not support a petition that would abandon a future pedestrian connection at this location. Planning staff has determined that a future pedestrian connection between Holdridge Road and the adjacent WMATA property could increase pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between the residential neighborhood and points east.

As stated above, Planning staff does not deem this right-of-way no longer necessary for the present public use and does not recommend foreclosing the future use of the right-of-way. Furthermore, the Applicant has not demonstrated that the AB776 petition is necessary to protect the health, safety, and

welfare of the residents near the right-of-way. Planning staff appreciate the opportunity to review this petition. Please do not hesitate to contact Jessica McVary (301-495-4723 or jessica.mcvary@montgomeryplanning.org), if you have any questions or require additional information.

ACCEPTED & APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gwen L.M. Wright".

Gwen L.M. Wright, Planning Director

October 11, 2021

Date Approved