

McCray, Tiara

From: McCray, Tiara
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 4:49 PM
Subject: Comment Solicitation - AB 786 (Permanent Closure of Westbard Ave @ River Rd.)
Attachments: Westbard Avenue Closure Application Letter.pdf; Subject Area Diagram.pdf

Importance: High

Categories: REVIEW/SIG. REQ'D

Greetings,

I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the holiday weekend.

Please be advised that the Property Acquisition Section of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MDOT), pursuant to Montgomery County Code section 49-62(e), has received a request to consider the permanent closure of vehicular traffic at the Westbard Avenue and River Road intersection in Bethesda. The application for permanent closure received from Mr. Ben Mann, representing the 5500 Westbard Avenue Block Civic Association (the "Applicant"), seeks to make permanent a temporary closure implemented as part of a detour plan for the realignment of Westbard Avenue at Ridgefield Road, in connection with the Westbard Square redevelopment project.

The Applicant argues that pursuant to County Code 49-63(c)(1)(2B), "the right of way is no longer necessary for present or anticipated public use in the foreseeable future" once the realignment of Westbard Avenue is complete. Attached, please find the following information concerning the application:

1. Applicant Petition
2. Subject Area Diagram

To protect the County's citizens and workforce, the County Executive or his Designee shall conduct this Hearing via the internet-based platform Zoom™. Comments regarding the abandonment are due to the office on or before **Monday, August 21, 2023, at 5:00 PM**. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 2:00 PM**.

Registration is required to participate in the Hearing. Completing registration will include parties on a mailing list to receive an electronic invitation to the Hearing. You are advised, should your agency/company has a strong position it wishes to advocate before the Hearing Officer, to have representation present for the Hearing in order to be able to respond to comments from the Petitioner. **If you are interested in participating in the Hearing, please let me know if your response and I will provide the registration link.**

Please call me if you have additional questions.

Thank you,

Tiara McCray
Acting Chief, Property Acquisition

Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Engineering

Property Acquisition Section

100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

240-777-7257 (o)

240-720-7862 (c)

