



North College Park Citizens Association

c/o Youth and Family Services

4912 Nantucket Road College Park, MD 20740

4901 Niagara Road
College Park, MD 20740
January 12, 2009

Harold Foster, Project Manager
Countywide Planning Division, M-NCPPC
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear Mr. Foster,

Thank you for attending NCPCA's meeting on January 8, 2009, and answering our members' questions about the Master Plan of Transportation. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of Planners Fatimah Hasan and Daniel Janousek in presenting information to our association.

With respect to the plan, NCPCA has taken the position that two elements should be removed from the existing Master Plan and not carried forward to the new plan. These are:

- C-118 – Improvement of Rhode Island Avenue to a 4-lane road from Greenbelt Road to Powder Mill Rd.
- P-200 – Extension of Autoville Drive North, as a 2-lane road from Cherry Hill Rd. to Baltimore Ave. at Hollywood Rd.

In the case of Rhode Island Ave., widening the road would only encourage users of Baltimore Ave. to access Rhode Island Ave. as an alternate, parallel route, increasing cut-through traffic, noise, and congestion. This will be especially true if the Central US 1 Sector Plan currently under study recommends measures that would slow traffic along Baltimore Ave. The existing rush hour backups on Rhode Island Ave. can be addressed through other means, such as a signalized intersection or minor street improvements.

In the case of Autoville Drive North, a connection between Cherry Hill Rd. and Baltimore Ave. would encourage large amounts of cut-through traffic to avoid the congested intersection at Cherry Hill Rd. and Baltimore Ave.

In both cases, the widening or extension of the specified road would result in an unacceptable increase in the amount of traffic in residential neighborhoods and have a negative impact the character of these neighborhoods.

Residents of the Hollywood and Autoville neighborhoods have long opposed widening/extending these roads. This is an appropriate time to align the MPOT with the wishes of the residents.

With respect to the other elements of the plan, NCPCA has taken no position.

Respectfully,

Lawrence R. Bleau
President, NCPCA

Cc: Mayor and Council, City of College Park
Tom Dernoga, County Councilmember, District 1
Eric Olson, County Councilmember, District 3
Chad Williams, M-NCPPC, Central US 1 Sector Plan