



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
March 13, 2009

College Park City Council
4500 Knox Road
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

The North College Park Citizens Association voted to support the City's grant application for the Lackawanna Road Streetscape project. I enclose a copy of a letter of support; I sent the original to Ms. Dorothy Friedman. Although the letter shows unqualified support, I should inform you that there was a good deal of dissent on this matter. In fact, there was a tie vote on the motion to support, which I broke in its favor; the vote was 10-9. No one from that section of Lackwanna Street attended the meeting.

Members had several reservations about the project, but the main ones were that the streetlights anticipated by City Planning staff might not be appropriate or even necessary, and that there are other streetscapes in northern College Park that need improvement more than this street.

Should Council decide to proceed with the grant application and it is awarded to the City, it would behoove the City to reconnect with the residents who live on or use that street and possibly modify the lighting or other details of design. After all, what staff presented to NCPCA in 2007 was a conceptual plan.

I would like to mention two more items that occurred to me after the meeting ended, and hence are my own opinions. First, the conceptual plan consisted of more elements than the grant proposal, such as neckdowns to control traffic, raised crosswalks, and an improved entrance to Metro. Why were none of these included, and would repaving prevent these features from being added in the future? Second, Ms. Friedman described the proposal as running from 53rd Ave. to Narragansett Pkwy; the stub of Lackwanna St. east of 53rd Ave. should definitely be included.

In closing, let me recommend that staff and Council take to heart comments about other northern College Park areas that could use improvement, and look into ways to fund them in the future.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Bleau
President, NCPCA