



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear [concerned citizen],

Thank you for your correspondence expressing your views on the design for Old Georgetown Road between Executive Boulevard and Rockville Pike. I have made your correspondence available to my Council colleagues, and I am pleased to respond on their behalf.

The White Flint Master Plan approved by the Council in 2010 for this segment was rebuilt from its current design--with six through lanes plus turning lanes--to a cross-section with four through lanes plus turning lanes. The Plan also calls for a shared use path and bike lanes in this segment. Like with other elements of this Plan, we intend to reach these goal during the course of the buildout of White Flint.

A major element of this Plan is to reconstruct Rockville Pike as an urban boulevard, with wide sidewalks, enhanced landscaping, and, most significantly, a Rockville Pike bus rapid transit (BRT) line to promote the higher share of transit commuting required to accommodate the travel demands of new development. We recognized that during the Pike's reconstruction (now scheduled to begin after Year 2020) there would be the need to carry some of its through traffic on other routes through White Flint. Therefore, we decided first to build those elements of the street network that could relieve the Pike during its reconstruction, including the relocation of part of Executive Boulevard, the reopening of Hoya Drive, and several other smaller improvements. This concept assumed that the travel lanes on Old Georgetown Road would *not* be reduced until the work on the Pike and BRT line were completed. This point was openly discussed and concurred upon during the Council's worksessions on the Plan.

As this segment is part of a State road (MD 187), the State Highway Administration has the final say about what is built or not built in its right-of-way. The County Department of Transportation is re-evaluating the near-term traffic forecasts to determine whether it can make the case to SHA for at least a partial reduction in the number of lanes in the near term.

In sum, as the County Executive has stated in his recent letter to the community, it is not a question of whether Old Georgetown Road should be narrowed to four lanes, but when.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns with me. Your views are important and will help me in my deliberations on matters that affect residents of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Craig Rice
Council President
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