

Appendix 4 – E-mail to County Executive & E-mailed Response

Dear Mr. Leggett:

My name is Deborah Nixon and previously I was on the CAB but had to resign when I moved from Rockville to Silver Spring. I now live on Kings House Rd in Good Hope Estates. Montgomery County is moving full speed ahead to place curb extensions in Good Hope Estates where I now reside. The majority of the residents are very opposed to these curb extensions. At a time when the county is so short of funds, why fix something that isn't broken. The houses in Good Hope Estates have not flooded, so why do we need curb extensions? It has worked for the water to flow through the undeveloped land behind my house where the deer live. Then it goes into ponds and lakes and is purified by the rocks it runs over. This system has worked for at least 25 years. I hope the county does not plan to develop the wooded land behind my house. Where are the deer going to go? We do not need a rec center back there or a skate board park. We need to leave it as nature has created it. We do not need to waste money building curb extensions that will take away street space. The cars on Kings House already speed going at least 60mph. I can vision a terrible accident resulting from the curb extensions. Please reconsider this plan and put the money into education.

Thank you,
Deborah S. Nixon

Dear Ms. Nixon:

Thank you for your email regarding curb extensions in Good Hope Estates. Your opposition to these curbs extensions for reasons of funding priorities and traffic safety are acknowledged. Because there may be some misunderstandings regarding these curb extensions, I want to respond to your concerns to show why Montgomery County continues to support this project.

With respect to funding priorities, you questioned why the county would spend money on such project at a time of budget constraints. The funding for this project is from the State budget, not the County budget. It is part of the overall funding package for the Intercounty Connector (ICC) project and specifically from the monies directly budgeted for environmental stewardship related to the ICC. Therefore, the County will gain the environmental benefits which occur from these projects, but they will be paid for by the State out of its budget. On a related note, you requested that the money being spent on this project be put into education instead. However, since this is part of a transportation project, with sources of funds dedicated for transportation-related expenditures, the money can not be shifted in the manner you request.

Regarding traffic safety issues you noted that you have observed vehicular speeding on Kings House Road and because curb extensions take away some street space that you can envision a future accident. However, curb extensions are a nationally recognized traffic engineering tool for traffic calming, a technique implemented to achieve several objectives including the reduction of speeding. Curb extensions have been effective at locations where they have been used elsewhere in Montgomery County.

Although I understand that the County's position differs from yours on this project, I believe we are both interested in a higher quality of life for the people of Montgomery County. We will continue to work with the State to incorporate suggestions from residents of Good Hope Estates for improvements to the project, while continuing to support the implementation of the project.

I appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns.
Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive