



**AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

*L'Ambassadeur  
2020-0506635*

Washington, November 12, 2020

Subject: Special exception No. S-862-C / Application Rochambeau, The French International School

Dear Ms. Johnson,

As Ambassador of France to the United States, I would like to express my full support for the new campus plans submitted by Rochambeau, the French International School, under the above application. Founded in 1955, Rochambeau now has an enrollment of around 1,000 students, from preschool to 12th grade. It is one of the oldest and largest private schools in the D.C. metro area. It is accredited by both the Maryland State Department of Education and the French Ministry of Education and awards the high school diploma in 11th grade and the French baccalaureat in 12th grade.

The school is of particular importance to the French community in the D.C. metro area, as it allows French students to continue their education based on the French curriculum. But it also has a special significance for a number of non-French students, who represent 40% of total enrollment; these students come from diverse cultural backgrounds and represent 80 different nationalities, and include many American students who value the bilingual and multicultural environment offered by Rochambeau.

Ms. Nana Johnson  
Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Copy:  
Mr. Matthew Folden  
M-NCPPC  
2425 Reedie Drive  
Wheaton, MD 20902

The completion of this project, to which the French Government has contributed some USD 1 million in financial support, is instrumental in providing the French community, and the diverse and multicultural Rochambeau community, with a school of excellence, not only in terms of curricula but also in terms of premises and facilities. Once operational, the new campus will serve as a gleaming symbol of the longstanding relationship between France and the United States, promoting education, cultural diversity and mutual understanding between our two nations.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could consider this important project, which has been submitted for your review, favorably.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Philippe Etienne

Mr. Sam and Dr. Vanessa Heitner  
1517 Corcoran Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
samheitner@gmail.com

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Attn: Ms. Nana Johnson

Mr. Matthew Folden  
M-NCPPC  
2425 Reddie Drive  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Hearing Examiner,

We are writing to you regarding the “special exception No. S-862-C - Application Rochambeau” dossier that is currently under review as we have had two children attend the Lycée Rochambeau French International school over the past decade. Sam is also on the Board of Trustees of the school and is quite familiar with the project details. We would like to thank you for examining the role that the new Rochambeau campus will play in the community and also for taking comments such as ours under consideration.

As a non-French family, Rochambeau provided unparalleled intellectual, cultural, and linguistic growth for our sons. We feel certain that they could not have reaped such a comprehensive, transformative, multi-cultural experience anywhere else in the Washington, DC area. Our elder son, now a sophomore at Stanford University, credits Rochambeau with having prepared him for one of the most rigorous engineering programs in the country. The school has a deep, demonstrated commitment to diversity, with students from over 80 nationalities roaming the halls. Excellence in the classroom and an eye towards developing responsible, hard-working students who will make the world a better place when they graduate is at the core of the school’s mission.

As traffic and activity are key items that you are reviewing at this time, we would like to immediately note that both of our boys traveled to and from Rochambeau by school bus or public transportation throughout their schooling. The system worked well, was safe, and was woven seamlessly into the school experience. In the final years of our oldest son’s time at the school he commuted to and from the Bethesda campus via public transportation daily as his schedule was more variable. We can think of very few times when we drove our car to Rochambeau outside of the occasional school meeting or off hour pickup or drop off due to a doctor appointment etc. Our experience leads us to believe that there is a high sense of trust in the bus system, and that maintaining high school bus ridership and minimizing single-family car-based drop offs and pickups at the school should not be a challenge.

While your specific mandate focuses on a limited number of factors, we know that the overall health and success of the area is paramount to all you do and to many of the community members who will be interested in this project. With that in mind, we think it is important for you to understand that type of community we found when we came to the school.

Rochambeau is a singular resource for French and non-French families alike, attracting students from a wide variety of backgrounds and life experiences in a way that enabled us to build friendships and connections with both international and local families living in Bethesda and surrounding communities with many families specifically choosing Bethesda as their home owing to the location of Rochambeau, putting down roots and establishing cultural and economic ties that last well beyond the years that their children attend the school. Based on our experience, a community that can be home to Rochambeau benefits tremendously from the intellectual and financial capital of all those associated with the school. We believe that this new campus should be viewed as a major asset for the community.

We hope that your important work on this review ensures that Rochambeau is able to open their new campus. It will enable the school to consolidate their operations and continue to play an important role in ensuring Bethesda and Montgomery County is home to a broad set of diverse families seeking to avail themselves of the best multicultural, multilingual learning environment in the United States. If you have any questions or we can assist your work in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Sam and Vanessa Heitner

From: Alexandra Amiel <amielalexm@aol.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 4:31 PM  
To: Nana.Johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov; Folden, Matthew  
<matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
Subject: Special exception N. S-862-C Application Rochambeau, The French International School

Dear Hearing Officer:

My name is Alexandra Vitaletti and I am writing in support of Rochambeau The French International School's new campus project. I have been a Rochambeau parent for five years and have three children at the school: a first grader, a fourth grader and a child just starting his school experience in pre-k. I am also very involved in the school, volunteering as room parent, on the parent ambassador committee and gala committee, to name a few. In addition, I am a resident of Montgomery County.

As a resident, I understand the concerns that the community might have in welcoming a new school to their neighborhood. I believe the plan that the school has in place for the new campus will minimize any negative impact that could occur in the neighborhood. I have driven my children to school, but have also had a child take the school's bus system. The bus drivers have always been courteous, punctual and respectful of pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

At the new school, the children will rely primarily on the bus system. As noted above, I do not foresee any issues with that and feel comfortable that the bus drivers will respect all applicable traffic rules. This year, due to the coronavirus, we moved to a hybrid model of school. As such, the parents, were no longer able to walk their children into the school and had to do a quick curbside drop-off and pick-up. This has been very efficient and parents have shown that they can quickly and efficiently enter and exit the current campuses - which are all in residential neighborhoods - without any disruptions. The parents are able to respect the timelines imposed, traffic signs for turning or no turn, entering and exiting the campuses swiftly and to stop for any pedestrians and bicycles or vehicles. The parent community has shown that it is particularly adaptable and therefore, I am certain that they will be able to easily adapt to the new bus system.

The benefits of bringing a premier, internationally recognized for its excellence, and diverse school to the Montgomery County community greatly outweigh any disturbances that could occur. I am confident the school will do all that is necessary to create a safe, welcoming and respectful community for all to enjoy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

Alexandra Amiel Vitaletti, J.D., LL.M  
(917) 923-5816

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Attn: Ms. Nana Johnson

Mr. Matthew Folden  
M-NCPPC  
2425 Reedie Drive  
Wheaton, MD 20902

**Special exception No. S-862-C : Application Rochambeau, The French International School**

**Dear Hearing Examiner,**

We are writing to urge your approval of the Special Exception for school operations for Rochambeau, the French International School. An educational opportunity of this type is truly unique in Montgomery County and adds immense value. I know that both parents of the school and the school administration are fully prepared to satisfy any logistical or administrative requirements in order for this approval to be granted.

We are long-time parents of the Rochambeau family with children who have been enrolled since their youngest age and are currently in 3rd and 6th grade.

Our connection to the Rochambeau ethos and values goes deeper than our relationships as parents. My entire family has gone through Rochambeau as students and as such we owe a tremendous amount to the school for our current professional, social success and fulfillment.

By being part of the Rochambeau community, we have been fortunate to be part of a diverse community, local but with a global reach. This duality has the incredible benefit of developing adaptability and fostering ties to various communities, the Montgomery County one in which we live, the international one which several of us originally hail from and the global one we have the privilege of being connected to.

With the school's growth and plans we are ready and eager to adjust to the changes this will bring. The school has always made available a robust and safe busing system to help families get children from home to the school's multiple campuses safely.

For this system to work over the years we have had to adapt to scheduling constraints, policies and the neighborhood codes of conduct. Embracing the neighborhoods our campuses belong to means being particularly attentive to the needs and privacy of their respective inhabitants.

Although the flexibility of choosing between in person drop off and busing offers conveniences, we appreciate the operational burden this creates. A heavier reliance on buses as a means for families to get children to and from school should improve logistics for the school's administrators but will entail new rules and policies for those opting for car drop-offs to 1. accommodate this increase in essential bus traffic and 2. to reduce any impact on the local neighborhood.

301-347-7162



aguehfam@gmail.com



BOLADJI & LOLA  
AGUEH



We are committed as members of the community to not only support the school's growth plans, but also embrace the larger community to which it belongs.

As an environmentally conscious family we are also excited to reduce the school's overall carbon footprint through consolidation of these campuses into this new location. This green focus is one of the many progressive values and benefits Rochambeau brings. In an ever-shrinking global world, the school brings with it a diverse, educated and warm group of families that we are certain will be a boon to Rochambeau's new neighborhood and community.

Warm regards,



**Boladji & Lola Agueh**



**From:** Diane Himmich <dianelorraine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:18 PM  
**To:** Nana.Johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov; Folden, Matthew  
<matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** Special exception No. S-862-C - Application Rochambeau, The French International School

Dear Hearing Examiner,

We are writing in support of the proposed elementary campus for The French International School in Bethesda, MD.

The school community that this new campus will serve is diverse and global and in its very essence highly adaptive and culturally sensitive. These families come to the French school with respect for international regulations and have had to comply with and adapt to different rules all over the world. We are sure that any and all county standards regarding transportation and traffic regulations are sure to be respected and accepted by the parents, including us.

The French school has maintained its good standing in Chevy Chase for years now as a community partner and will surely continue to be an asset providing future support for enrichment activities such as Girls Can Run, local elections and many other activities dependent on local venues.

The French school will be so proud and happy to have this campus with its lovely buildings and outdoor green space; it is idyllic.

We love Bethesda. I was raised here and am proud to have my children a part of the community.

We thank you for your consideration and acceptance of this next important step in the school's development.

Sincerely,

Diane Boehm Himmich  
Mohamed Himmich



Meaghan Hlinka  
5225 Pooks Hill Rd #1715N  
Bethesda, MD 20814

11/18/2020

Mr. Matthew Folden  
M-NCPPC  
2425 Reddie Drive  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Ms. Nana Johnson  
Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Hearing Examiner,

I am writing to you regarding the Special exception No. S-862-C for Rochambeau The French International School. My daughter Julia (4 years old) attends Rochambeau and we live in the neighborhood at the Promenade building on Pooks Hill Rd. We are very hopeful that the school will finally be able to consolidate their pre-school and elementary school campuses and especially so close to the Forest Rd campus. As someone who grew up in this neighborhood and within the French community, this location is truly the perfect fit.

I understand there will be transportation requirements, specifically that all students will need to take the bus. I know that other families will agree with me that this is an easy enough accommodation to access this unique educational environment. My daughter took the inter campus shuttle bus last year, starting when she was just 3 years old, and honestly loved it. She felt a sense of responsibility and had her "bus friends". I value how this experience has fostered my daughter's independence and resilience and I know many other families feel the same. I'm so glad the school is able to offer a safe and reliable bus service.

My husband and I have lived in the Pooks Hill neighborhood since 2011, and we feel lucky to be able to live in such a quiet area with plenty of green spaces. We were sad to see the recent housing development on Beach Avenue as it seems they removed almost all the trees. We are happy that Rochambeau plans to keep the green spaces for this new campus and especially the "champion" trees.

We are excited and hopeful that this new location could one day be Julia's new school.

Best regards,

Meaghan Hlinka

## Laura and Koshie Macias

2415 Eccleston Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
301-221-1837  
lyoudale@gmail.com

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Attn: Ms. Nana Johnson

Mr. Matthew Folden  
M-NCPPC  
2425 Reddie Drive  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Hearing Examiner,

My name is Laura Macias and my son, Adrien Macias is in Pre-K at Rochambeau and has been there for 2 years. Both my husband and I have lived in Montgomery County for most of our lives. I myself am a former student of Rochambeau and have witnessed firsthand the stellar academics, the rich multicultural environment, and the strong sense of community. I am a federal employee who works with international governments and partners, on an almost daily basis. I credit the French educational system and Rochambeau curriculum for giving me the tools, languages and skillsets needed to accomplish this type of work.

I understand that, in order for the school to be able to receive the necessary zoning and other permits, there will be some adjustments. Currently, we drop off and pick up our son at school every day. However, I am willing and prepared to have my son take the bus in order to adhere to traffic requirements. I also understand that traffic patterns, such as no left/right turns, might result in slightly longer commute times. I live in Silver Spring, off of Georgia Avenue which is a very busy road and has a number of left turn restrictions (near Forest Glen metro station) so I am familiar with these types of route adjustments. It is a small sacrifice to make for my son to continue receiving an excellent education.

I am looking forward to having my son continue his education on this beautiful new campus. I understand Rochambeau is committed to maintaining the current open spaces, mature and “champion” trees, preserving the historical structures and using green building principles in property renovations. Our family believes these practices will help to nurture and support a healthy learning environment and further the county’s efforts for ecological preservation.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Macias (Rochambeau Alumni, Class of 2005) and Koshie K. Macias (Quince Orchard High School, Class of 2001)



**ROCHAMBEAU**  
THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Bethesda, November 18th, 2020

## **Special exception No. S-862-C**

### **Application Rochambeau, The French International School**

Dear Hearing Examiner,

I write today in support of the new campus project submitted by Rochambeau the French International School.

My name is Francois Legros and I have been the President of the board of trustees of Rochambeau for the past seven years. I am a French Citizen, an entrepreneur, the CEO of one of the fastest growing start-ups in the United States, the managing Director of two investment funds, the father of two kids and my family and I have been living in the United States for seventeen years. Like many members of the Rochambeau's community we were attracted to the Washington DC area and the Montgomery county by the reputation of excellence of Rochambeau.

Indeed for over 60 years Rochambeau has been providing to its students, from pre-K to 12th grade, a unique multilingual curriculum based on a mix of the French and the American curricula and centered on values such as academic rigor, open-mindedness, reason, tolerance and an emphasis on the understanding of the various cultures of the world. Rochambeau is now one of the largest private schools in the Washington DC area. It provides one of the most multicultural and diverse educative environment to its students. It welcomes students from all faiths, background, ethnicity and nationalities. Our students' body garners over 70 nationalities and yet 55% of them are US citizens. In addition, Rochambeau is also providing a significant financial aid program to ensure that students of all means may attend our school. Over the past years Rochambeau's enrollment has been growing steadily to about 1,100 students in 2019 and we expect that growth to resume once the area has recovered from the current health crisis.

Rochambeau's enrollment growth has been accompanied by a steady stream of families and businesses choosing the Montgomery county and neighboring counties as their residence for their proximity to our schools. These families and businesses have had a significantly positive impact on the economy of the county and of the greater Washington DC area.



# ROCHAMBEAU

THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Rochambeau has also been by itself a strong economic force in the Montgomery county. As our enrollment grew so did our employment. We employ today over 280 people, 50% of them are US citizens and should you approve our New Campus Project we plan to continue to expand our work force together with our enrollment.

Rochambeau's New Campus project is of utmost importance to the future of our schools but I believe it is also important for the future of the Montgomery county and neighboring counties.

It is now widely understood that Pre-K education is of significant importance for the intellectual development of children and their ability to succeed in higher education. Rochambeau has been a pioneer in the Montgomery county for pre-K education with a very strong and highly recognized multilingual curriculum and our New campus is designed to further increase our capacity to serve the community in this important area. Indeed, this new Campus will regroup our Kindergarden and Elementary schools, currently located on two different campuses, and will expand significantly our ability to welcome additional students. As a matter of fact, we believe our overall enrollment could grow in the near future to about 1,400 students.

Alongside that growth, we believe additional families and businesses will continue to choose the Montgomery county and neighboring counties as their residence further enriching the social and economical life of our communities.

Finally, during the construction phase our new Campus project will result in the creation of hundreds of construction jobs in the area and once opened we plan to expand our permanent work force to serve a growing number of students.

For those reasons, I, together with our entire board of trustees and community of parents and students, would be grateful if you could consider favorably our New Campus project which is submitted to your review.

Sincerely yours.



November 17, 2020

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Attn: Ms. Nana Johnson  
Nana.Johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov  
*Via email delivery*

Mr. Matthew Folden M-NCPPC  
Matthew.Folden@montgomeryplanning.org  
*Via email delivery*

Re: Special exception No. S-862-C  
Application Rochambeau, The French International School

Dear Hearing Examiner:

The Parents Association Rochambeau (PAR) writes to support the school's zoning and permit applications for our new campus. PAR is Rochambeau's parent association and 464 of Rochambeau families—737 of our students, or 74% of our student body—reside in Montgomery County.

PAR is committed to the school's healthy growth, including the social and community health of the school in its neighborhood. The existing Rochambeau footprint, on three campuses, means that families may drop off and pick up children at two or even three campuses daily. This fact increases traffic, noise pollution and carbon emissions in the county and presents significant logistical challenges for the neighborhoods and the school. A new campus footprint in two closely proximate locations would reduce neighborhood disturbance, traffic, carbon emissions, air and noise pollution. PAR's Transportation Committee already actively works to reduce traffic and coordinate bus transportation and would expand these activities for the new campus. Buses will be the required form of transportation for the new campus and traffic in the county will be further reduced.

PAR actively supports ecologically sensitive planning for the new Rochambeau campus. The new campus provides an opportunity for new infrastructure using clean energy and green technology not possible on the old campuses. Focus areas include preserving mature trees and green building in line with the values we teach our students. We are grateful for the opportunity to present this letter of support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Alain Hajjar  
President

cc: Christina Busso, bussoc@rochambeau.org  
Parents Association Rochambeau, Inc. | 9600 Forest Rd | Bethesda, MD 20814

Olga Laveda and Arnaud Messenger  
5512 Spruce tree avenue  
Bethesda MD 20814

Bethesda, November 14, 2020

Dear members of the Appeal Board of the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission,

We are writing to you to express our strong support for our school, the French International School and are appealing to you to grant the school the necessary zoning and other permits to begin school operations for the new campus it just acquired.

My husband and I are proud parents of the Rochambeau community since 2003. Our 2 oldest children graduated in 2017 and 2019. Our youngest child is currently in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are very attached to the school which has been a pillar of our family life and are deeply grateful for the excellent education our children have received and are still receiving. We are an international family which holds 3 nationalities (American, French and Spanish) and were able to maintain our cultural ties to our native countries as well as embrace the richness and openness of American culture and way of life. We also enjoyed the intellectual rigor, the strong academic curriculum and the tremendous diversity of the school which helped our children on their way to become accomplished young adults.

Rochambeau definitely helps to support the positive reputation of the community as a center for premier educational opportunities and continues to attract families who are coming to the region.

We have lived in the DC area for the past 25 years and moved to Bethesda in 2001 to be as close as possible to Rochambeau. We are proud members of the Maplewood community and have really enjoyed the friendly and peaceful atmosphere here.

Our children are able to walk to school every day. This is why we are especially sensitive to the fact that buses will be the required form of transportation for all students so that traffic will not be a nuisance for our friends and neighbors living in the community. We are familiar with the instructions provided annually by the school for bus, vehicle, bike and pedestrian traffic and are grateful for all the procedures in place that promote safety.

The fact that the campus will maintain current open spaces, mature and “champion” trees, preserve historic structures, and use “green” building principles in the property renovations is essential for us. Aside from living at walking distance from the school, this is one aspect of our life in this neighborhood that we value the most.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnaud Messenger and Olga Laveda

**From:** M W <mwilkers\_03@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:23 AM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** Maplewood Resident Comments for Case number S-862-C

December 17, 2020

Dear Mr. Matthew Folden,

We are current residents of Maplewood neighborhood in Bethesda, Maryland. We are writing to communicate significant problems that would be caused by the proposed new French International School development on the FASEB campus (FIS-FASEB) within our neighborhood (Case number S-862-C). Maplewood is a quiet, residential neighborhood that provides housing for families, peaceful streets and sidewalks for walking and children's play, recreation and athletics in Maplewood park.

FIS-FASEB seeks to establish a new DMV commuter school within the Maplewood residential neighborhood. FIS-FASEB will have 900+ new students and staff, and operate from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. FIS-FASEB seeks to transport staff and students from the greater DMV area utilizing a complex system of buses and car traffic routes to accommodate the daily 1,800 person arrivals and departures. These car and traffic routes are designed to cut-through Maplewood neighborhood at high volume by buses, shuttles, and private cars.

**We are concerned that FIS-FASEB development will be detrimental to the Maplewood residential neighborhood for the following reasons:**

1. The daily, high-volume, cut-through traffic by FIS-FASEB will be hazardous for the safety of children and family walking in Maplewood. Further, Maplewood's narrow roads do not support daily, high-volume, cut-through traffic, such as would be produced by FIS-FASEB.
2. FIS has historically practiced unsafe traffic management with having a spillover queue on Beech Avenue for the FIS on Forest Road, halting traffic and blocking the Bethesda Trolley Trail.
3. Rush hour traffic surrounding Maplewood is already at capacity and will further increase with development currently underway (Marriot Pooks Hill, NIH/FAES housing, Wormald Wild Oak Homes). The current traffic studies are not comprehensive nor realistic given the future development within the Maplewood neighborhood.
4. Bus garaging on the FIS-FASEB site (15 buses) will further worsen traffic, cause significant air and noise pollution, and is entirely incompatible within a residential neighborhood.
5. **A school driveway entrance cannot be safely operated at the FIS-FASEB school property on MD 355.** Alarmingly, the proposed school driveway is immediately adjacent to major highways and other large roads. An Interstate-495 on-ramp is within 500 ft. An Interstate-270 off-ramp is within 760 ft. Pooks Hill Road is within 160 ft. Northbound traffic on 355 is within 90 ft. This traffic mixture is high risk for accidents and injury. A safe entrance cannot possibly be operated on this property, regardless of future ingress lanes or other construction.

Sincerely,

Matthew and Loren Wilkerson



**From:** Carl Wilkerson <CarlWilkerson22@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:14 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** Input on French International School Traffic Plan for Proposed New School on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda MD

Dear Mr. Folden:

I am writing in response to the traffic plan submitted by the French International School (FIS) for its proposed new site on Wisconsin Avenue. I have lived in the Maplewood community since 1965 on both Linden Avenue and Acacia Avenue. I'm very familiar, therefore, with the traffic patterns and pressure confronting the streets in Maplewood, including those fundamentally impacted by the proposed FIS zoning and traffic request: Beech Avenue, Linden Avenue, Pooks Hill Road, Alta Vista Road and Cedar Lane. The Maplewood neighborhood is circumscribed by numerous, profound traffic challenges, including:

- Voluminous traffic from the Route 495/ I-270 exit programs going southbound on Wisconsin Avenue at Pooks Hill Road;
- Congestive rush-hour backups at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Alta Vista Road due to cars making a U-turn to head North on Wisconsin Avenue after off ramping from Route 495 because there is no cloverleaf designed on the exit;
- Significantly increased traffic following the BRAC expansion of the Walter Reed Medical Center on Wisconsin Avenue;
- Anticipated traffic increases on car doors bordering Maplewood (Old Georgetown Road and Wisconsin Avenue) due to the rebuilding of downtown Bethesda and the establishment of new headquarters for Marriott international on Wisconsin Avenue;
- Rush-hour traffic along West Cedar Lane associated with the National Institutes of Health; and,
- Increased traffic from new proposed housing development on the Pooks Hill Marriott property

Each of these factors increases the incidence of cut-through traffic in the Maplewood neighborhood. The planned FIS drop-off and bus routes to the proposed FIS elementary school would further exacerbate the traffic on the already over-burdened roads in Maplewood, especially Beech Avenue, Linden Avenue, Pooks Hill Road, and Alta Vista Road. These roads are unsustainably saturated with cut through traffic and cannot handle more traffic as proposed by the FIS. The FIS traffic study is defective because it does not address the proposal's traffic burden in a comprehensive fashion, and ignores the preexisting traffic demands and increasing cut-through traffic.

This neighborhood has many adults and children that walk along and cross these streets and would be endangered by added traffic. The Maplewood-Alta Vista Recreation Center is the site of many athletic and social activities (such as the Maplewood Football Program) that bring large numbers of children and adults to crosswalks on Linden Avenue, Beech Avenue, Alta Vista Road, and Pooks Hill Road during the time periods that the FIS busses and individual pick-ups would occur.

While the proposed FIS traffic plan suggests that 50% of the proposed 700 students would commute by bus, the remaining 50% would be individually driven to the proposed new school. The routes proposed by FIS for staff and the 50% of the school population that will be individually dropped off recommend using Alta Vista Road, Linden Avenue and Beech Avenue. This level of increased traffic on these neighborhood roads contradicts the 1990 Master Plan for Bethesda Chevy Chase, which acknowledged the severe incidence of cut-through traffic and underscored the continued need for access restrictions. The increased volume on Beech Avenue would create further gridlocks on Beech Avenue as it approaches the intersection with Old Georgetown Road due to the confluence of the FIS High School on Forest Lane, the Bethesda Country Day School and the entrance to the BCC YMCA together with the already excessive volume of traffic on Beech from Linden Avenue and Pooks Hill Road. During the beginning and end of school days, this span is very clogged. It cannot reasonably sustain more. The residents of Forest Lane, Edgley Road and Montgomery Road have a very difficult time entering and exiting to and from their streets during the congestion from the start and end of the FIS high school day.

The FIS traffic plan for the proposed Wisconsin Avenue school conflicts with the core purpose of the access restrictions referenced in the 1990 master plan for Bethesda Chevy Chase. Currently there are access restrictions at the intersection of Beech Avenue and Linden Avenue, Pooks Hill Road and Linden Avenue, and at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Elsmere Avenue. Regrettably, even these access restrictions are rarely enforced. Cut through traffic during the restricted times generally disregards the access restrictions. Sections of Beech Avenue west of the Linden Avenue intersection are barely 18 feet in several places. Two bicycle fatalities recently occurred near the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and Beech Avenue. The increased traffic proposed by FIS for staff and dropped off students would increase the likelihood of other incidents. Many of the YMCA members walk along the Beech Avenue sidewalks and cross at Old Georgetown Road and could be endangered by increased traffic congestion. The significant impacts of the FIS traffic proposal on the Beech Avenue and Old Georgetown Road intersections have not been considered in the FIS traffic study. The report captures a snapshot of traffic in a limited vacuum without regard to the comprehensive impact of the enlarged FIS traffic and cut throughs specifically referenced in the 1990 master plan.

For all of these reasons, the FIS traffic plan should be rejected. No Added FIS traffic should be permitted on Linden Avenue, Pooks Hill Road, Alta Vista Avenue or Beech Avenue. Instead, if the County and State permit the requested FIS zoning exception, all FIS traffic should be restricted to Wisconsin Avenue, West Cedar Lane, and Route 495 for access and egress to the proposed new school. Additional access restrictions should be established for the Alta Vista-Wisconsin Avenue intersection and the Linden Avenue and Alta Vista intersection.

Montgomery County has failed the Maplewood neighborhood in several respects over decades. When the zoning was approved for the Promenade development on Pooks Hill

Road, the County promised the installation of bollards at the intersection of Pooks Hill Road and Linden Avenue to mitigate the increased cut-through traffic. The Board of Zoning Appeals, however, chose instead to simply install access restrictions that are rarely enforced even today. It is time for Montgomery County to properly address the reality of the unlimited burden confronting Maplewood from the multitude of nearby traffic challenges as highlighted above

In sum, the increased volume of traffic that the proposed FIS plan would inflict is unacceptable, unsustainable, and contrary to the 1990 master plan. The FIS plan would irretrievably impair the quiet enjoyment and safety of the Maplewood neighborhood. The FIS traffic study is imbalanced and fails to consider the collective impact of the neighborhood's already excessive traffic challenges from Walter Reed, NIH, commercial activity on Pooks Hill Road and collateral cut-through traffic. The FIS traffic plan is unsafe.

Thank you for your valuable consideration of these views.

**From:** Jody Bleiberg <jodybleiberg@grtkids.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 5:21 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** French School Traffic

Mr. Folden,

I am a resident of Maplewood for over thirty years and have seen much. My house, on Linden Ave, directly faces Beech Avenue (you would run into it if you didn't stop heading west on Beech).

The traffic proposal by the French School does not make sense. Beech -Linden -Pooks Hill - Alta Vista would become a major artery between the two campuses for busses and parents. They literally have it planned to "teach" parents how to use this "artery." We, the residents and homeowners, are not cared about. A few examples:

1. There have been times during the school year, when due to busses and cars I can not back out of or get into my driveway.
2. There have been times when the continuous noise of busses have made it impossible to sit on my screened-in porch.
3. Drivers ignoring the "No Left Turn" sign at Linden and Beech as well as at Pooks Hill and Linden are continuous. We are told that police can not be assigned to monitor adherence routinely as that is not priority. Occasionally, police are there and they can't even catch all of them. Please look at the police logs.
4. When a commuter wants to "obey" the "No Left Turn" regulation at Beech and Linden, they simply turn into my driveway (or my neighbors) to do a "U-turn." There have been times that cars almost hit each other when U-turns are made. In order for my children to play safely in the front of their own house, I had to park my car across my driveway so my children wouldn't get hit.
5. It was not safe, due to the bus and commuter traffic, to allow my children to walk alone to or from their bus stop or to cross the street to a friend's house due to the amount of traffic (busses and parents).
6. My neighbors' children were not allowed to cross themselves to go to the park due to the traffic (they need to cross Linden Ave between Beech and Pooks Hill or Alta Vista Rd).

I can go on and I am not exaggerating to make my case. These are facts. Allowing the French School to use our neighborhood and "teach" their parents the streets in the neighborhood to use as a commuter route is unconscionable and abusive to use. The French School still is a business; we are the residents who live here and bear the burden.

I certainly hope you will be understanding and keep the busses and parent commuters on the main arteries (Rockville Pike, Cedar Lane, Old Georgetown Road) and allow us to live in a neighborhood.

Jody Bleiberg, Ph.D. and Joseph Bleiberg, Ph.D.

--

Jody Bleiberg, Ph.D., ABSNP  
Licensed Psychologist  
Diplomate, School Neuropsychology  
9515 Linden Avenue

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

(301) 493-4198

[www.bethesdaneuropsychology.com](http://www.bethesdaneuropsychology.com)

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SUBJECT: French International School's Proposed Elementary School at 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda. MD

To: [Matt.Folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:Matt.Folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

Consideration of the proposal by the French International School (FIS) to create an elementary school at 9650 Rockville Pike in Bethesda should include a comprehensive view how this location will not only increase internal neighborhood traffic but add to increased traffic congestion on major nearby roads such as Rockville Pike, I-495 and I-270 spur as well as Pooks Hill Rd.

In an attempt to take advantage of the existing FIS school on the opposite side of Maple-Alta Vista Rd neighborhood (one block off Rt. 187/Old Georgetown Rd and Beech Ave), the FIS proposal for the elementary school on the opposite side of the neighborhood (Rockville Pike) automatically brings to mind the adage, "the shortest distance between two point is a straight line". This intrinsically offers an opportunity for cut-through traffic which includes FIS buses as shuttles. The FIS plan to provide parents with a "map" of how to exit the neighborhood includes an exit at Rt. 187/Old Georgetown Rd. and Alta Vista Rd which has long been a very problematic intersection for drivers, pedestrians and bikers along the Bethesda Trolley Trail due to visibility issues and short turning radiuses.

One cannot ignore the accommodations that the community made to welcome the Naval Support Activity/Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (NSA/WRNMMC) with its increased traffic through the corridor. In addition, a major development of two high-rises has been approved on Pooks Hill Rd which will add significant traffic on a two-lane road between Linden Ave (has turn restrictions) and Rockville Pike and which is a planned FIS bus route. The intersection of East Bound Pooks Hill Rd at Rockville Pike is complicated and currently offers drivers unsafe traffic turns. Buses may have difficulty turning onto southbound Rockville Pike as well to reach the entrance of the property.

The FIS plan to use Rockville Pike as the only entrance/exit to the school property offers another potential for significant traffic concerns in that area. Southbound buses will, by

their very nature, slow traffic along Rockville Pike even with a planned deceleration lane as they enter/exit the property. Drivers exiting east bound I-495 at Exit 34 or off the I-270 Spur onto southbound Rockville Pike are offered a U-turn light at southbound Rockville Pike and Alta Vista Rd to go north on Rockville Pike but a driver has to cross over several lanes of traffic in a busy corridor to reach that U-turn/left turn light. The planned entrance/exit to the FIS property will be in this immediate vicinity. In addition, one cannot guarantee that the northbound Rockville Pike traffic allowed to make a left turn at Pooks Hill Rd will not attempt to make a U-turn onto southbound Rockville Pike to enter the property.

The safety of pedestrians along Rockville Pike is a constant concern and evermore highlighted in the block between the property entrance/exit and Alta Vista Rd. Given the typical traffic speed in this corridor, pedestrian travel is always a concern.

All in all, it is important to consider this proposal with a comprehensive view of what currently exists between I-495 and NSA/National Institutes of Health and what has already been approved in the vicinity of the proposed FIS elementary school site at 9650 Rockville Pike.

Janet Maalouf

5104 Benton Ave.

Bethesda, MD 20814

From: Susan Chacko <susan.chacko@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 2:41 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
Subject: re: French International School in Bethesda

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr Folden,

As a resident of the Maplewood district in Bethesda, I am very concerned about the latest traffic plan for the French International School on Rockville Pike in Bethesda.

Based on their last presentation, the FIS plans to have up to 48 buses that will cut through the neighborhood each day. In addition, FIS has explicitly provided their parents with a recommended route that cuts through the neighborhood streets, so that there will be a significant number of FIS parents who will be driving through the neighborhood each day, multiple times a day.

This will be a significant change to the neighborhood. At school start and stop times, we can expect that our own cars will not be able to get in and out of the neighborhood. Maplewood is currently pedestrian-friendly with many people walking and biking to NIH, Walter Reed and the Medical Center; having this large increase in bus and car traffic will be detrimental to walkers and bikers. It will also make it more dangerous for children to walk to Maplewood park or cross the road to Montgomery County school bus-stops.

It is quite possible for traffic between the two FIS sites to travel along Rockville Pike, Cedar Lane, and Old Georgetown Road. The FIS traffic plan needs to direct all traffic between the two FIS sites to use these major roads rather than cutting through the Maplewood neighbourhood.

In addition, any FIS traffic plan needs to address the significant amount of traffic for their Saturday and summer programs. There should be mandatory bus requirements for these programs, just as for the regular school programs.

Thank you,  
Susan Chacko

9629 Alta Vista Terrace

Bethesda, MD.



**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** david seid <davidseid3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:47 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** French International School/FASEB

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Mr. Folden,

As residents who live on Alta Vista Terrace our house directly borders the proposed French School on the former FASEB property. We are writing with regards to two concerns.

1. Noise from cars/buses and playground, and lights from cars--The French School plans to have a road that circles the property that it will use as a que line for pick up and drop off. Inside that road where a barn currently exists will turn into a playground. Currently there are two fences. A wood fence inside the property and a metal fence that delineates the property line of our hose. To avoid hearing noise from cars and having the headlights shine into our bedroom windows the wood fence either needs to be maintained/upgraded, or some type of covering placed on the metal fence. In addition, there are currently very tall pine trees just inside the property line (between the current wood and metal fences) that are directly behind our house and several other houses on the block. These pine trees create a very good buffer from the planned road and playground. I understand that the school plans are to keep these trees, and I cannot overemphasize enough how important it is that these trees are kept.

Finally, we are concerned about the noise from the plan to park several buses diagonally behind our house and a neighboring house. Putting aside whether buses should even be stored on the property, the location of these buses should be moved so that we do not hear the busses when they start up each morning.

2. Traffic--We appreciate that the school has spent considerable time working on a traffic plan. Nevertheless, many concerns remain. In particular, we are concerned about cut-through traffic from parents' cars as well as the potential for a lot of buses on Alta Vista Road. Such traffic is a major safety concern in a residential neighborhood, particularly given that there are many school age children who use two MCPS bus stops on Alta Vista Road. Rather than using Alta Vista Road, the traffic from cars and buses should be routed to other roads such as Cedar Lane.

Moreover, as we understand, the current plans fail to address how Saturday and summer school programs will operate. In order to reduce the impact on our local roads the school should be required to have mandatory bus requirements for these programs.

David and Lisa Seid  
9605 Alta Vista Terrace

**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Erickson, Nathan <Nathan.Erickson@friedfrank.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** French International School

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Mr. Folden,

I live in the Maplewood/Alta Vista neighborhood, on Wickett Terrace just off of Alta Vista Road. I wish to submit for the record my opposition to any plans by the French International School to utilize Alta Vista Road as a thoroughfare for purposes of shuttling students from their separate locations, or as a route for vehicular traffic to and from the French International School. Any such plan has the very real potential to turn an otherwise quiet residential street into a high traffic area for which it was never intended, for the convenience of the school only and to the detriment of all who live on and off of Alta Vista. Understanding that the volume of students proposed for the school will bring with it significant vehicular traffic wherever it is routed, the burden of this should not fall on neighborhood residents, and to the extent that alternate traffic routes away from the Maplewood/Alta Vista neighborhood need to be mandated for the school and its patrons, they are the ones who should bear such inconvenience.

Best regards,

**Nathan Erickson**

Nathan.Erickson@friedfrank.com | Tel: +1 202 639 7091

**Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP**

801 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20006

[friedfrank.com](http://friedfrank.com)

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## **Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Katee Neal <kateeneal@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** FIS and Alta Vista

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Greetings Mr. Folden,

As a long-time resident of Alta Vista Road, I am concerned with the impact of the French International School's traffic plan on the quality of life and safety of our neighborhood. Our local street Alta Vista Road is already faced with some speeding, cut-through traffic, since we are sandwiched between high traffic roadways. Adding additional bus and vehicle traffic to Alta Vista Road should not be part of the traffic plan for the school. Rather, they should be directed to arterial roadways, such as Cedar Lane.

If you drove down Alta Vista Road, you would note multiple speed bumps, signs cautioning motorists to slow down while children are at play and even a driveway with fencing at the end to protect the safety of children at play. Our daughter learned to ride her bicycle in Alta Vista Court, which is unfortunately often used to make U-turns by motorists avoiding a U-turn at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Alta Vista Road to go north on Rockville Pike after exiting the Beltway or I-270. If parents are encouraged to use our local street as they exit FIS, this habit would increase and we would likely seek restrictions for southbound right turns from Rockville Pike onto Alta Vista Road.

Please consider mandating busing for the French International School's Saturday School and summer programs. As you can imagine, those are times that many of our residents are out walking dogs, children are running to our local park and our elderly residents are enjoying a stroll. Increased traffic threatens the safety of our pedestrians and the quality of life for our residents. These buses should also be required to route to arterial roads and not cut through our neighborhood. The property access is from Rockville Pike and should be kept to these main roads.

Thank your for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katee Neal  
5010 Alta Vista Road  
Bethesda, MD

**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Maureen Wilkerson <m.wilkerson@wap.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** Traffic plans for the French International School proposed location on Rockville Pike, route 355

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Folden,

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the traffic plans for the French International School's former FASEB campus.

Please ensure that all FIS buses will proceed to arterial routes, such as West Cedar Lane, rather than cutting through the Maplewood-Alta Vista neighborhood. Our residential street is enjoyed by families walking their dogs and children playing. The influx of traffic from FIS could adversely affect the quality of life and safety of our residents. It has been reported that 7 buses will conduct two sets of roundtrips between the Forest Road location and the proposed use on Rockville Pike.

In addition, the FIS diagrams indicated Alta Vista Road as a suggested route for parents. This proposed route must be forbidden. This traffic should only use arterial routes and not local roads. Further, the shuttle bus between campuses should only be used by families that have students at both schools, not as an alternative drop off option.

I suggest, at a minimum, that signage be placed on all the intersections of Alta Vista Road and Linden Avenue that no turns during 7-9 am, and 4- 6 pm be allowed except for local residents. These restrictions can be a challenge to enforce, but other nearby neighborhoods, i.e. Locust Hill, have had such signage for many years to eliminate cut through traffic.

My family has lived at our current address for over 35 years, and there have been several occasions when Rochambeau (FIS) buses seem to careen at unreasonable speed down our street. MCPS buses do not.

Thank you for your attention.

Maureen P. Wilkerson  
5214 Acacia Avenue  
Bethesda

## Folden, Matthew

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**From:** zhangxq4488@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:16 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** about the Alta Vista rd traffic

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hi this is Sophia and Kevin , 5014

We have small kid, really concerned about our neighborhood safety, we are agree all five requirement.

Thank you for your hard work

Sophia

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Stephen Roderick <snrkiwi@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:27 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Cc:** Stephen Roderick  
**Subject:** Traffic plans for the French International School's proposed use of the former FASEB campus

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Mr. Folden,

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the traffic plans for the French International School's proposed use of the former FASEB campus.

I am a recent home purchaser in Maplewood-Alta Vista and the pedestrian-friendly neighborhood with so many children walking it was a major draw. I am concerned at the increased possibility of accidents, or even a tragedy, should buses make their way through the neighborhood streets, many of which do not have sidewalks. I am even more concerned about parents using the neighborhood as a cut through while dropping off or picking up students. Lastly, the local streets are even busier with foot traffic on the weekends, and additional traffic then will further increase the chances of something terrible happening.

I petition you to route all FIS traffic solely along arterial roads such as MD-355 and Cedar Lane, to include commercial traffic like buses, as well as parents dropping off and picking up students. Please ensure that the regulations cope with summer and weekend traffic, and that the only entrance (pedestrian or vehicular) is on MD-355.

Sincerely  
Stephen Roderick  
9631 Alta Vista Ter, Bethesda MD 20814

**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Mary Gant <mary@gant.io>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** French International School Traffic in Maplewood Alta Vista

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

**Dear Mr. Folden:**

**I am writing to express my great concern about the increased bus and car traffic on Alta Vista Road and other neighborhood streets due to the opening of the French International School on Rockville Pike.**

**With street closures, limited access during rush hours, and speed bumps, we have been spared having many cars, trucks, and buses cut through our quiet residential neighborhood. With the large number of French International School cars and noisy, polluting diesel buses using our streets that will change.**

**I am sure that you are aware of the special hazards of pollution from diesel buses to human health and the environment. Unacceptable high levels of nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter produced by diesel buses will be spewed into our air and end up in our homes.**

**This is a neighborhood where adults walk to work or Metro and for pleasure and children play and run to catch their buses to our Montgomery County Schools. We bought our homes here to be able to enjoy quiet, safe streets--not to have a stream of buses and cars go by every morning and evening.**

**In addition, it is essential that the mandatory bus requirements be required for all Saturday and summer programs. Those are times when more children will be out walking, biking, and playing.**

**I very much appreciate your time and effort in helping my neighbors and me with this issue.**

**Yours truly,**

**Mary Gant  
5202 Alta Vista Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814**



**From:** Andrew <hwagillen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:33 AM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** French International School Proposal

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Folden:

As a resident of the Maplewood-Alta Vista community, I'm writing to express my concern about the plans for the French International School development. My concerns relate primarily to the effect on vehicle traffic through the neighborhood.

In my opinion, too many cars already cut through our neighborhood at excessively high rates of speed. A further increase to the level of automobile and bus traffic on Alta Vista Rd and other neighborhood streets would further compromise the safety of our residential (i.e., not commercial) area.

It is my understanding that the FIS has actually developed materials to encourage parents to use Alta Vista Rd as a "cut-through" after dropping off children. I think this reflects an egregious disregard on the part of the FIS for the safety and livability of the neighborhood, and I will oppose this with vigor.

Any traffic arising from the FIS development should be routed to more main arteries, such as Cedar Lane, not neighborhood streets, such as Alta Vista Rd. This should apply to both buses and private vehicles.

I appreciate this opportunity to register my concerns at this time and as this process continues.

Best regards,  
H.W. Andrew Gillen  
5018 Alta Vista Rd

**From:** [Ellen Gagne](#)  
**To:** [Folden, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** Potential traffic issues due to the opening of the French International School  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:03:38 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

From: YOU

Mr. Folden,

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the traffic plans for the French International School's former FASEB campus.

As a resident of Maplewood-Alta Vista, I relish the pedestrian-friendly neighborhood where children run to their MCPS bus stops and play on their way to our local park. Potential cut-through traffic from parents' vehicles as well as the potential for multiple buses traveling down Alta Vista Road threatens the safety of our residents. All of this traffic should be routed to arterial roadways, such as Cedar Lane.

In addition, the plans do not address the traffic patterns for the extensive Saturday school and summer programs. There should be mandatory bus requirements for these programs to reduce impact on our already high traffic area.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Gagne  
5114 Viking Rd.  
Bethesda 20814

**From:** [Jessica Brown](#)  
**To:** [Folden, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** Traffic plan for Maplewood-Alta Vista neighborhood  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 7:51:10 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Mr. Folden,

I live on Alta Vista Terrace in the Maplewood-Alta Vista neighborhood and am concerned about the traffic plan proposed by the French International School. At a recent meeting of our neighborhood association, FIS displayed a map of "safe routes" to and from the Rockville Pike school location that they intend to use to educate parents about how they should get to and from campus. This map advised parents to cut through the Maplewood-Alta Vista neighborhood. The local roads are full of children playing, people walking with and without dogs. The influx of additional FIS-related cut-through traffic may risk the safety of our residents and must be managed.

I hope you will review the FIS traffic plan proposal with this in mind because, among other things, turn restrictions may eventually need to be put in place if there is not a better plan. It may be best to require all FIS buses to proceed to West Cedar Lane before preceding on their route.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to attending the upcoming hearings.

Thanks,

Jessica Brown

**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie <Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org>; Kraut, Aaron <Aaron.Kraut@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Paylor, Michael L. <Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Somarajan, Deepak <deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: French International School S-862C

Matt:

Thanks for reaching out. I was actually just over at the school site. A number of the adjacent and abutting neighbors had asked to tour it to see how the plans would impact their homes and Helené was happy to oblige them.

My present concerns are: has FIS modified the TMP from what you previously provided me? Has MCDOT looked at the turning movement of buses onto Alta Vista Road from Rockville Pike with vehicles waiting at the traffic signal? [I have been informed by a resident that the FIS buses can, and do successfully, navigate a right turn onto Forest Road from Beech Avenue - thus answering my previous concern for that intersection.]. During the meeting on the site, Helené remains very vague on the summer camp. I think that those plans need to be tied down and the TMP modified to include the operation of the camp. Finally, while the County strongly tries to protect residential neighborhoods from cut-through traffic, how can the County approve a TMP that creates a commuter route for the shuttle buses between the campuses? And we still don't know if any of the regular FIS bus routes would have to come through the neighborhood to go on their routes. MCA strongly desires that FIS adhere to its original plan to have all bus traffic travel on roads external to the neighborhood and that parents coming to the school on Old Georgetown Road from the south be directed to access the site via the Beltway rather than through the neighborhood.

One more thing. If you are going to be out of the from the 21st of December until the 1st of January, will you still be able to have the Staff Report ready by the 28th?

Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

On Dec 10, 2020, at 3:27 PM, Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:

Mr. Myers,

I wanted to make sure I have included the important pieces of correspondence you've submitted to the Department over the past two years. I have attached copies of what I believe to be a full representation of the comments you've provided to me thus far in the event you would like to review and provide additional comments.

For your reference, this item is scheduled to be discussed at the Planning Board hearing on Thursday, January 7, 2021 and before the Hearing Examiner on Friday, January 22, 2021. The applicant's final

submittal materials are available online

at: <https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/daiclinks/pdoxlinks.aspx?apno=S862C&projname=Rochambeau%20French%20School>

I expect to post the Staff Report on this project no later than Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> ahead of the January 7 Planning Board hearing. Additional testimony may be submitted for the Board's consideration until noon on January 6<sup>th</sup>, however, any testimony you would like attached to the Staff Report must be submitted to me prior to December 17<sup>th</sup>.

I would be happy to discuss this application and any questions you may have at your convenience.

Regards,

Matt

<image013.png>

**Matthew Folden, AICP**

**Planner Coordinator**

**DownCounty Planning Division**

Montgomery County Planning Department

2425 Reedie Drive, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor | Wheaton, MD

20902 [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

o: 301.495.4539

<image014.png> <image015.png> <image016.png> <image017.png>

<image018.jpg>

**Please note that I will be out of the office from Monday, December 21, 2020 – Friday, January 1, 2021**

<FrenchSchool-Correspondence\_AMyers.pdf>

From: Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 12:34 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
Cc: Kraut, Aaron <Aaron.Kraut@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Torma, Rebecca <Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Somarajan, Deepak <deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Paylor, Michael L. <Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
Subject: Comments From Maplewood Residents

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

I want to add one more comment for your consideration. I do not believe any FIS buses currently enter Forest Road by making a right turn from Beech Avenue. The proposed shuttle buses from the new campus to the Forest Road campus would be required to make this maneuver with the turn being greater than 90-degrees. Again, has anyone from MCDOT checked to see that this maneuver could be accomplished with a vehicle waiting to exit Forest Road? Beech Avenue has a considerable traffic back-up during peak AM rush with traffic waiting to exit onto Old Georgetown Road. Has anybody considered how adding buses trying to turn right into Forest Road would affect this traffic pattern?

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

Matt:

MCA met, virtually, last night. FIS presented its plans. Here are the concerns that residents had from the proposal:

1) As expected, there was concern about cut-through traffic without any current way for Maplewood to mitigate it. As part of its TMP, FIS actually plans to give school parents a map for ways to get to the campus. Part of this map, for drivers coming from the south on Old Georgetown Road a route through the neighborhood rather than directing them to the Capital Beltway and around to 355. This needs to be corrected. Also, pursuant to the TMP, FIS will tell parents not to try and make a U-turn at Alta Vista Road and Bellevue Ave., there are points further south on 355, including the intersection with Cedar Lane with its privileged left turn, where these parents could be directed to make such a turning movement. Even if parents and faculty leaving the campus don't cut through the neighborhood, they may enter Alta Vista and turn around to try and come out with the traffic signal. The residents stated some drivers already do this by looping around Alta Vista Terrace on a daily basis.

2) A large amount of angst about the shuttle-bus schedule through the neighborhood. This would result in 12 bus trips in each direction, daily! Considering that FIS in May of 2018 told MCA that the shuttle buses would not come through the neighborhood, this is a major change that would affect the quality of life of residents living on Beech and Linden Avenues as well as Alta Vista Road. Also, has anyone from MCDOT or SHA ever checked to see if a bus could safely navigate a right turn onto Alta Vista Road with

vehicles waiting at the traffic signal to exit that road as well? Any realignment of the travel lanes to accommodate this turn by buses would result on the loss of on-street parking for residents whose homes are near the intersection. Finally, portions of Alta Vista Road are in very poor condition with many patches over the years. This road was supposed to have been resurfaced about 10 years ago, but it was never done when funding ran out for resurfacing residential streets. The weight of 12 buses a day will accelerate the decay of this road. I should also point out that the speed humps on Alta Vista Road, and a portion of Linden Ave. between Beech and Alta Vista, are not the type of humps the County uses where buses regularly traverse the road, although a county school bus route does utilize Alta Vista Road.

3) It was not clear from the presentation by FIS whether other bus routes would have to traverse the neighborhood in order to reach the designated areas for dropping off students in the afternoon or, if the school parks the buses on the site, in the morning when they leave to pick up students.

4) I requested that the school add a resident of Alta Vista Court (houses on this street abut the property) as well as the School Transportation Coordinator to the Community Liaison Group.

5) MCA has previously (In September 2018) to oppose the parking of the school buses on the campus and that the TMP must reflect Saturday operation of the school as well as the summer camp.

I hope this information helps you in your evaluation of the FIS proposal for the site. Please let me know if you have any questions. I would definitely like to know MCDOT's position on the points I have raised about the shuttle bus routes.

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

From: Folden, Matthew  
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 1:59 PM  
To: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Cc: Kraut, Aaron <[Aaron.Kraut@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Aaron.Kraut@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Torma, Rebecca <[Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Somarajan, Deepak <[deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Paylor, Michael L. <[Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; MCP-Chair <[mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org)>  
Subject: RE: Comments From Maplewood Residents

Allen,

Thank you for your emails. I will coordinate with MCDOT on your operational and geometric questions. By copy of this email, I am also forwarding your comments to the Planning Board Chair's office for inclusion in the public record.

With regard to the DRC meeting on this application: the special exception did not have a formal DRC meeting, as one is not required for this type of application. That said, MCDOT and MDSA have been active participants in the review of this project since it was accepted for review in April 2018.

Respectfully,

Matt

Matthew Folden, AICP | Planner Coordinator DownCounty Planning Division  
301.495.4539 | [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

Please note that I will be out of the office from Monday, December 21, 2020 – Friday, January 1, 2021

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 12:34 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
Cc: Kraut, Aaron <[Aaron.Kraut@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Aaron.Kraut@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Torma, Rebecca <[Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Somarajan, Deepak <[deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov)>; Paylor, Michael L. <[Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
Subject: Comments From Maplewood Residents

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

I want to add one more comment for your consideration. I do not believe any FIS buses currently enter Forest Road by making a right turn from Beech Avenue. The proposed shuttle buses from the new campus to the Forest Road campus would be required to make this maneuver with the turn being greater than 90-degrees. Again, has anyone from MCDOT checked to see that this maneuver could be accomplished with a vehicle waiting to exit Forest Road? Beech Avenue has a considerable traffic back-



up during peak AM rush with traffic waiting to exit onto Old Georgetown Road. Has anybody considered how adding buses trying to turn right into Forest Road would affect this traffic pattern?

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

Matt:

MCA met, virtually, last night. FIS presented its plans. Here are the concerns that residents had from the proposal:

1) As expected, there was concern about cut-through traffic without any current way for Maplewood to mitigate it. As part of its TMP, FIS actually plans to give school parents a map for ways to get to the campus. Part of this map, for drivers coming from the south on Old Georgetown Road a route through the neighborhood rather than directing them to the Capital Beltway and around to 355. This needs to be corrected. Also, pursuant to the TMP, FIS will tell parents not to try and make a U-turn at Alta Vista Road and Bellevue Ave., there are points further south on 355, including the intersection with Cedar Lane with its privileged left turn, where these parents could be directed to make such a turning movement. Even if parents and faculty leaving the campus don't cut through the neighborhood, they may enter Alta Vista and turn around to try and come out with the traffic signal. The residents stated some drivers already to this by looping around Alta Vista Terrace on a daily basis.

2) A large amount of angst about the shuttle-bus schedule through the neighborhood. This would result in 12 bus trips in each direction, daily! Considering that FIS in May of 2018 told MCA that the shuttle buses would not come through the neighborhood, this is a major change that would affect the quality of life of residents living on Beech and Linden Avenues as well as Alta Vista Road. Also, has anyone from MCDOT or SHA ever checked to see if a bus could safely navigate a right turn onto Alta Vista Road with vehicles waiting at the traffic signal to exit that road as well? Any realignment of the travel lanes to accommodate this turn by buses would result on the loss of on-street parking for residents whose homes are near the intersection. Finally, portions of Alta Vista Road are in very poor condition with many patches over the years. This road was supposed to have been resurfaced about 10 years ago, but it was never done when funding ran out for resurfacing residential streets. The weight of 12 buses a day will accelerate the decay of this road. I should also point out that the speed humps on Alta Vista Road, and a portion of Linden Ave. between Beech and Alta Vista, are not the type of humps the County uses where buses regularly traverse the road, although a county school bus route does utilize Alta Vista Road.

3) It was not clear from the presentation by FIS whether other bus routes would have to traverse the neighborhood in order to reach the designated areas for dropping off students in the afternoon or, if the school parks the buses on the site, in the morning when they leave to pick up students.

4) I requested that the school add a resident of Alta Vista Court (houses on this street abut the property) as well as the School Transportation Coordinator to the Community Liaison Group.

5) MCA has previously (In September 2018) to oppose the parking of the school buses on the campus and that the TMP must reflect Saturday operation of the school as well as the summer camp.

I hope this information helps you in your evaluation of the FIS proposal for the site. Please let me know if you have any questions. I would definitely like to know MCDOT's position on the points I have raised about the shuttle bus routes.

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

From: Folden, Matthew  
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 2:31 PM  
To: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Cc: Attorney Jody S. Kline ([JSKline@mmcanby.com](mailto:JSKline@mmcanby.com)) <[jskline@mmcanby.com](mailto:jskline@mmcanby.com)>; Helene Fabre <[fabreh@rochambeau.org](mailto:fabreh@rochambeau.org)>  
Subject: RE: FIS Forestation Plan

Allen,

Thank you for your email. By copy of this email, I am forwarding your concerns to Mr. Jody Kline and Ms. Helene Fabre and asking him to respond directly to you regarding the adjacent neighbors' request for a meeting with the French School.

Matt

Matthew Folden, AICP | Planner Coordinator DownCounty Planning Division  
301.495.4539 | [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:16 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
Subject: FIS Forestation Plan

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

I thought that you should be aware that several residents with homes near the FIS proposed school have asked for a site visit. FIS has said it would schedule one, but so far has not delivered on that promise. If that visit does not occur, MCA will oppose the Planning Board's approval of the forestation plan. If it does happen, I will forward comments to you.

Allen

**From:** Folden, Matthew  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
**Cc:** Mencarini, Katherine <[katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: S-862C French School

Allen,

SHA has conceptually approved the acceleration/ deceleration lane and will provide additional comments at the time of preliminary plan and, if approved, through the access permit process.

Matt

**Matthew Folden, AICP** | Planner Coordinator  
DownCounty Planning Division  
301.495.4539 | [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)



**WE'VE MOVED!**

THE NEW PARK AND PLANNING HEADQUARTERS IS NOW LOCATED AT  
2425 REEDIE DRIVE, WHEATON, MD 20902

**From:** Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:21 AM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: S-862C French School

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

Thank you for this information. MCA will meet on December 2nd. So, we should be able to get something to you. From the meeting that the MCA Executive Committee had with FIS on November 5th, I understand that there are a couple of issues that are still being worked out with SHA - specifically how the "deceleration lane" will function relative to through traffic and the matter of U-turns from northbound 355. Do you expect these to be worked out by January 7th?

Allen

On Nov 18, 2020, at 9:40 AM, Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:

Allen,

Thank you for your emails. I appreciate your comments on the French School application and look forward to working with you and the Maplewood community to address these concerns. For your

reference, I have also copied Ms. Katie Mencarini, transportation planner on the project, as she will be working with the TMP in detail in the forthcoming preliminary plan submittal.

The language proposed in the draft TMP is the applicant's first attempt at addressing staff's direction to prepare and submit such a document. I expect the approved language to have specific and meaningful penalties related to the school's annual enrollment if they are unable to meet the approved trip limitations. An example of a very effective TMP currently in place is Good Counsel High School in Olney. That document is available online at:<https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/408/7701/32-TMCAAgreementwithCoverLetter-12002082A.pdf/32-TMCAAgreementwithCoverLetter-12002082A.pdf>

With regard to your concern about MCDOT's policies on traffic control: Planning staff has no jurisdiction on those controls and must defer to MCDOT on that element.

Please send me any formal comments on the project that you would like included in the public record. At this time, I anticipate taking this item to the Planning Board on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, which should provide time for Maplewood to send in a letter.

Again, thank you for your time. I look forward to further discussions with you.

Regards,

Matt

<image013.png>

**Matthew Folden, AICP**  
Planner Coordinator

**DownCounty Planning Division**  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
2425 Reedie Drive, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor | Wheaton, MD  
20902 [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)  
o: 301.495.4539

<image014.png> <image015.png> <image016.png> <image017.png>

<image018.jpg>

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 11:32 AM  
To: Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
Subject: Some More Comments About The Draft TMP

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

The language that is in the draft TMP about educating parents is basically a platitude. There is the same language in the Forest Road campus TPM. And the residents are consistently playing whack-a-mole with issues of parents who don't comply with the TMP - whether its picking up and dropping off children on

Montgomery Drive or coming south on Montgomery Drive to turn into the student pick-up and drop-off area. The TMP specifies a left turn off of Beech Avenue onto Montgomery Drive and another left turn into the drop-off location. The latter issue was only resolved after I got the County to install a no-right-turn sign at the entrance to the school's driveway. In fact, the school had such a problem with parents going out that driveway that it had to install one-way spikes in the road to prevent exits being made onto Montgomery Drive.

Also, no student has ever been suspended because their parents failed to comply with the TMP. And, personally, I'm against that action as it only punishes the child for the actions of their parents. Also, no child has been expelled for violation of the TMP. I feel that same about that action and expulsion only hurts the school's bottom line.

So, telling parents that they can't turn right onto Alta Vista Road after leaving the school, when any other southbound driver on Rockville Pike can make that turning movement is basically "a toothless tiger."

Allen

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>

Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 10:56 AM

To: Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>

Cc: Mencarini, Katherine <[katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Kwesi Woodroffe <[KWoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:KWoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov)>

Subject: Re: FIS TMP and SHA

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

I'm really disappointed in MCDOT. I know that they would have opposed any plan for the site that included an exit onto Alta Vista Road or Alta Vista. However, once a plan was devised to have all traffic enter and exit onto Rockville Pike, they seem to be leaving up to Maplewood to deal with the issue of cut-through traffic. Moreover, they are fixated on the current turn restrictions at Beech and Linden Avenues which are intended to address cut-through traffic from Pooks Hill Road and have no bearing on Alta Vista Road traffic. [Currently, the AM restrictions are in place from 7:00 - 9:00. We might need to start that earlier if staff at the school use Alta Vista, Linden, and Pooks Hill to get to the school.]. Furthermore, MCDOT has told me if we want to request any turn restrictions from Rockville Pike onto Alta Vista that this would be a three to seven-year project! Really!! MCDOT does not seem to want to address the matter of vehicles having to go north after leaving the school site.

Also, when FIS made their initial presentation to MCA in May of 2018, all bus traffic, including the shuttle buses were on routes external to the neighborhood. Now, FIS proposes 4 shuttles using Maplewood streets. And there may be more. The draft TMP. Is vague as to where the buses will go when exiting the site. Some, will definitely have to go north. So, we may have a considerable number of FIS bus traffic through the neighborhood. This morning, I asked Jody for a clarification as to where buses leaving the site would go. I'm waiting for his response.

Based on what we knew in September 2018, MCA passed a couple of motions to be used in our testimony. The membership has not seen the current plan. We will meet, virtually, with FIS on December 2nd. Since I try to leave as many decisions to the membership as possible, at this time, I am not sure what the membership feels about cut-through traffic and what actions, if any, should be taken to address it.

Any further thoughts from you would be appreciated.

Allen

**Folden, Matthew**

---

**From:** Folden, Matthew  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 10:41 AM  
**To:** Allen Myers  
**Cc:** Mencarini, Katherine; Kwesi Woodroffe  
**Subject:** RE: FIS TMP and SHA

Allen,

The Board will approve the forest conservation element and will vote to endorse the special exception use and operation of the site at its hearing. The Board does not have approval authority over the special exception, so the Board's approval of anything other than the forest conservation element will be deferred to the forthcoming Preliminary Plan.

That said, please feel free to comment on any elements of the application that raise questions or concerns for you. Any formal comments you submit on the application will be included in the public record for the Hearing Examiner.

Matt

Matthew Folden, AICP | Planner Coordinator DownCounty Planning Division  
301.495.4539 | [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Cc:** Mencarini, Katherine <[katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Kwesi Woodroffe <[KWoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:KWoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FIS TMP and SHA

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

Thank you for responding to me. But now I am a bit confused. If you are not approving the document with the Special Exception, who is — OZAA, Board of Appeals? If this is the case what will the Board discuss, relevant to this Special Exception on December 10th?

Thanks,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

> On Nov 16, 2020, at 7:54 AM, Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:  
>  
> Hi Allen,  
>



> Thank you for your comment on TMP. We are not approving the document with the Special Exception but have required that the applicant submit the draft that you reviewed so that we have ample time to provide comments prior to approval. The Summer Camp will be part of the future TMP.

>

> By copy of this email, I am forwarding your concerns to the SHA reviewer, Mr. Kwesi Woodroffe, and the Planning Department's transportation reviewer, Ms. Katie Mencarini.

>

> Respectfully,

>

> Matt

>

> Matthew Folden, AICP | Planner Coordinator DownCounty Planning

> Division

> 301.495.4539 | matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>

> Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:37 PM

> To: Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>

> Subject: FIS TMP and SHA

>

> [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

>

> Matt:

>

> I've reviewed the TMP that FIS has submitted and it appears to me that

> it does not include the operation a proposed summer camp. I was

> wondering what SHA has to say about this. Could you provide me the

> name of the individual from SHA who was responsible for reviewing this

> project

>

> Thank you.

>

> Allen Myers, President

> Maplewood Citizens Association

**Folden, Matthew**

---

**From:** Folden, Matthew  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 7:55 AM  
**To:** Allen Myers  
**Cc:** Mencarini, Katherine; Kwesi Woodroffe  
**Subject:** RE: FIS TMP and SHA

Hi Allen,

Thank you for your comment on TMP. We are not approving the document with the Special Exception but have required that the applicant submit the draft that you reviewed so that we have ample time to provide comments prior to approval. The Summer Camp will be part of the future TMP.

By copy of this email, I am forwarding your concerns to the SHA reviewer, Mr. Kwesi Woodroffe, and the Planning Department's transportation reviewer, Ms. Katie Mencarini.

Respectfully,

Matt

Matthew Folden, AICP | Planner Coordinator DownCounty Planning Division  
301.495.4539 | [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:37 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
Subject: FIS TMP and SHA

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

I've reviewed the TMP that FIS has submitted and it appears to me that it does not include the operation a proposed summer camp. I was wondering what SHA has to say about this. Could you provide me the name of the individual from SHA who was responsible for reviewing this project

Thank you.

Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

## Folden, Matthew

---

**From:** Folden, Matthew  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:20 PM  
**To:** Allen Myers  
**Cc:** Mencarini, Katherine; Deepak Somarajan  
(deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Contact Information, Please

Allen,

Thank you for contacting me. I suggest coordinating with Mr. Deepak Somarajan at MCDOT regarding your concerns. Please also keep Ms. Katie Mencarini and myself in the loop so we can make sure your concerns are addressed in the staff report.

Respectfully,

Matt

Matthew Folden, AICP | Planner Coordinator DownCounty Planning Division  
301.495.4539 | matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** Contact Information, Please

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

Would you please provide me the contact information for the MCDOT person who was involved with the proposed elementary school by the French International School? There is a potential traffic issue associated with this project that I wish to discuss with him/her.

Thanks,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

**Folden, Matthew**

---

**From:** Folden, Matthew  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** almyers@starpower.net  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie; Marie LaBaw (Marie.LaBaw@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: French International Elementary School

Mr. Myers,

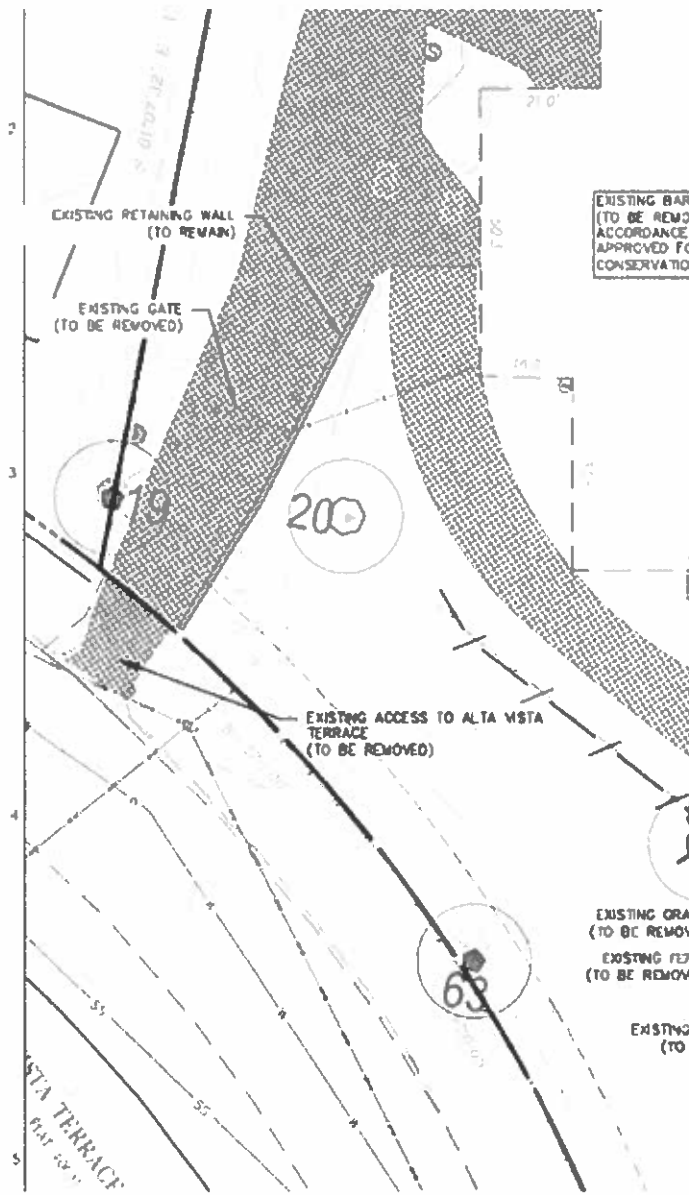
Thank you for your inquiry. The latest version of the development plans for the FASEB site include removal of the existing driveway onto Alta Vista Terrace and do not include a new driveway onto Alta Vista Road, as was previously proposed.

By copy of this email, I am forwarding your inquiry about egress points to Ms. Marie LaBaw PhD, PE, with the Department of Permitting Services Fire Department Access and Water Supply Section, and asking her to respond to your question about access points.

The most recent submittal is available on the Planning Department's DAIC Website via the following link. For your reference, I am waiting for the applicant to submit the environmental component of the application (anticipated next week) before the current submittal is complete:

<https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/daiclinks/pdoxlinks.aspx?apno=S862C&projname=Rochambeau%20French%20School>

I would like to specifically direct your attention to Sheet C-105, which shows the removal of the existing driveway, and C-240, the Fire Access Plan, at: <https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/15046/50545/S862-C%20Special%20Exception%20Civil%20Plans.pdf/S862-C%20Special%20Exception%20Civil%20Plans.pdf>. For ease of reference, I am also providing a screen capture of that portion of the Sheet C-105, below:



Regards,

Matt



**Montgomery  
Planning**

**Matthew Folden, AICP**  
Planner Coordinator

**DownCounty Planning Division**  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
2425 Reedie Drive | Wheaton, MD 20902  
[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)  
o: 301.495.4539



**WE'VE MOVED!**

THE NEW PARK AND PLANNING HEADQUARTERS IS NOW LOCATED AT  
2425 REEDIE DRIVE, WHEATON, MD 20902

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:50 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
Subject: French International Elementary School

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Matt:

Jody Kline indicated to me that you would like the Maplewood Citizens Association to meet in October to consider the latest FIS plans in order that you may include our comments in the Staff Report.

I like to make sure that that the members are seeing plans that the Planning Board will be considering. The current set of plans do not include an exit from the property into streets in Maplewood. While this is certainly more desirable than what we have seen previously, I wonder if the Fire Marshall will approve plans that only include one ingress and egress from the property. FIS made a similar claim when it was proposing a school on Old Georgetown Road. However, the Fire Marshall required an exit to be constructed into the Wyngate neighborhood.

If the Fire Marshall has not approved these plans, when will he do so? Am I correct that this will be part of the DRC? If so, when will that meeting be held?

Thanks.

Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

**Folden, Matthew**

---

**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie; Hisel-McCoy, Elza; Jody Kline; Helene Fabre  
**Subject:** Re: French School (Special Exception S862C) Update

Matt:

Thank you for providing me the links to the French School submission. I think these plans, if approved, do much to relieve possible congestion in the neighborhood. However, there is a discrepancy that I would like cleared up. The plans still reflect FASEB or another tenant in the East Building. But Ms. Fabre, in an e-mail communication with me, has told me the school does not plan to be a landlord for the tenants in that building.

As to the community meeting, I was thinking of the one required by your approval process since the plan and intentions of FIS are much different than originally presented to the broader community outreach.

Finally, I trust and expect that FIS will meet, either in person or through a virtual means, with the membership of the Maplewood Citizens Association prior to these plans being brought before the Planning Board.

Sincerely,  
 Allen Myers, President  
 Maplewood Citizens Association

On Jun 16, 2020, at 8:02 AM, Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:

Mr. Myers,

Thank you for raising these questions. I have provided responses to each of your points and am available to discuss further upon your request. Additionally, I have copied Mr. Jody Kline and Ms. Helene Fabre on this email so they may follow-up with you on some of your questions (regarding anticipated site occupancy and a potential community meeting).

Submittal Information

The Applicant's latest submission is available on the Planning Department's Development Applications Information Center (DAIC) website via the following link:  
<https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/daiclinks/pdoxlinks.aspx?apno=S862C&projname=Rochambeau%20French%20School>

Student Busing/ Trip Generation

Although an earlier proposal included a provision of 100% student busing, that proposal has been revised in the most recent traffic study (at staff's direction) to reflect a more realistic trip generation that accounts for before/ after care, siblings, and student age. The busing program and trip generation are discussed in the traffic study, which is available via the following link. I would specifically draw your attention to the following pages:

- Traffic Study pages 17 20 (PDF pages 22-25): A brief narrative overview of the trip generation and trip generation tables.

The full traffic study is available here: [https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/15046/50545/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20\(2.20.20\).pdf/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20\(2.20.20\).pdf](https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/15046/50545/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20(2.20.20).pdf/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20(2.20.20).pdf)

Site Access

Site access has been the primary point of discussion on this project to-date. At this time, there is no access proposed from Alta Vista Road.

Site Occupancy

To the best of my knowledge, office tenants are not a part of the subject application. I would defer this question to the Applicant’s attorney, Jody Kline, at this time and ask that any updated submittal documents be updated to clarify this information.

Community Outreach

Although no formal community meeting is required at this time, I forwarded your inquiry about a potential future community meeting to the Applicant’s attorney, Jody Kline, and asked that he speak with the Applicant about meeting with your community to discuss the current proposal.

Please contact me to discuss any of these points in further detail.

Respectfully,

Matt

<image007.png>

**Matthew Folden, AICP**  
**Planner Coordinator**

Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)  
o: 301.495.4539

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<image012.png>

**From:** Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: French School (Special Exception S862C) Update

Matt:

Thank for contacting me. I am on the distribution list for notices on this project. What I was hopeful to see was a copy of their latest submission to the Planning Board by the French International School. Kathy Riiley, before she retired, provided me a copy of an earlier submission. It is my understanding that the latest submission includes 100% busing of students. I have also be told by the school that there will be no gate on Alta Vista Road and that the they will not be a landlord for tenants in the East Building. I would like to see if these statements are included in the latest submission so that I may gauge the impact of them on our neighborhood. Finally, given the fact that this proposal has gone



through many iterations since the required "community meeting," I am wondering if another such meeting should be required before the proposal is brought to the Planning Board.

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

On Jun 11, 2020, at 11:04 AM, Folden, Matthew  
<[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:

Mr. Myers,

My colleague, Grace Bogdan, contacted me to let me know that you would like an update on the French School application. I am happy to provide the following information and I am available to discuss further, as needed.

Planning staff, and staff at the County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and Maryland State Highway Administration (MDSHA) have been coordinating with the Applicant to resolve outstanding transportation issues for much of the past year.

At this time, there are no public hearings with either the Planning Board or Hearing Examiner on this project. Once Planning staff receive recommendations from MCDOT and MDSHA, I will move forward with preparation of the staff report and scheduling a public hearing. If you have been receiving notice via mail about this application, you should receive notice of the public hearing once it is scheduled. If you have not received notice about this project in the past and would like to receive notice, please let me know.

Please contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

Respectfully,

**Matthew Folden, AICP**  
**Planner Coordinator**

Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)  
o: 301.495.4539

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<image013.png>

<image018.png>

**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Subject:** Re: French School (Special Exception S862C) Update

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Matt:

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Sincerely,  
 Allen Myers, President  
 Maplewood Citizens Association

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Mr. Myers,

My colleague, Grace Bogdan, contacted me to let me know that you would like an update on the French School application. I am happy to provide the following information and I am available to discuss further, as needed.

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Please contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

Respectfully,

**Folden, Matthew**

---

**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 5:33 PM  
**To:** Reilly, Kathy  
**Cc:** brown@knopf-brown.com; Folden, Matthew; Torma, Rebecca; Somarajan, Deepak; Derek Gunn; kwoodroffe@sha.state.md.us; Scott Holcomb; Alvin Powell; Erica Rigby; Terry, Mark; Hisel-McCoy, Elza; Pfefferle, Mark; Jody Kline; brown@knopf-brown.com  
**Subject:** Re: Traffic Management Plan For New French International Elementary School

Ms. Reilly:

I feel at a bit of a disadvantage. I have seen the comments of SHA. You and counsel for FIS have seen our MCA comments. But MCA counsel and I have not seen a copy of the latest submissions by FIS. Is there a way that this can be rectified?

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

On Jun 5, 2019, at 5:25 PM, Reilly, Kathy <[kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Myers,

Thank you for your emailed transportation comments of June 4, 2019 regarding the French International School, special exception amendment S-862-C. The Applicant has submitted a revised traffic study which is currently under review by the staff. A traffic study cannot be approved until all issues identified by staff have been addressed. At this time, no final traffic studies have been approved for this amendment as staff continues to identify issues with the submitted traffic study.

Staff appreciates the Maplewood Citizens Association comments and will be analyzing them in conjunction with our review of this special exception amendment and the applicant's revised traffic study. Additionally, your email letter has been forwarded to the applicant's attorney and development team for their review.

Please feel free to forward any additional comments you may have on this amendment application to staff. Letters from the community will be included in the staff report presented to the Planning Board and Hearing Examiner.

Again, thank you for these very detailed and comprehensive transportation comments.

Kathy Reilly

Kathleen A. Reilly, AICP  
Coordinator, Area 1  
M-NCPPC  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring Maryland 20910  
T: 301-495-4614

<image001.png>

**From:** Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 11:22 AM

**To:** Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Reilly, Kathy <[kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org)>; [Rebecca.torma@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Rebecca.torma@montgomerycountymd.gov); [deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov); [dgunn@modot.maryland.gov](mailto:dgunn@modot.maryland.gov); [kwoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:kwoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov); [sholcomb@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:sholcomb@mdot.maryland.gov); [apowell@primeeng.com](mailto:apowell@primeeng.com); [ERigby@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:ERigby@mdot.maryland.gov)

**Cc:** [brown@knopf-brown.com](mailto:brown@knopf-brown.com)

**Subject:** Traffic Management Plan For New French International Elementary School

On behalf of the Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) I would like to address several issues with regard to the proposed French International School (FIS) elementary school on the FASEB property that seemingly have not received the appropriate attention by MCDOT, SHA and the Planning Board (henceforth, known as "authorities"). It appears that a comprehensive view of the proposed project to include the implications of suggested traffic patterns in Maplewood has not been taken into consideration.

MCA raises the following specific points of concern related to the project:

- No reference is made to the number of vehicles expected to exit the property onto Alta Vista Terrace or a possible new road onto Alta Vista Rd. FASEB is now limited to 80 exits, but even that would be problematic for the neighborhood; FASEB employees primarily exit the rear gate in the afternoon and not in the morning.
- The Alta Vista Road signal at Rt. 355 during the AM rush hour does not allow more than 2-3 cars to make the northbound left turn onto Rt. 355 given that southbound Rt. 355 traffic often blocks the intersection. If FIS was required to use either the current exit onto Alta Vista Terrace or the new road as the authorities have proposed it is clear a bottleneck would develop on Alta Vista Rd given that the limited number of vehicles able to get through the light. This point was brought to the attention of Ms. Kathleen Riley and Mr. Matthew Folden in a previous meeting however, this issue does not seem to have been considered.

- The issue of how school buses exiting the property would be able to merge onto Rt. 355 with the southbound traffic and limited lane capacity was also raised at the aforementioned meeting. This issue does not seem to have been addressed by the authorities.
- Another proposal made at the aforementioned meeting was to eliminate the A.M. U-turns for northbound Rt. 355 traffic at Pooks Hill Rd thus encouraging FIS destined traffic to utilize the dog-leg turn at Grosvenor Lane resulting in a safer approach for the traffic desiring to enter the FASEB property. This idea does not appear to have been considered. If U-turns for northbound Rt. 355 traffic are continued to be allowed at Pooks Hill Rd, the left-hand turn bay capacity may overflow onto the northbound travel lane creating additional challenges at that rather complicated intersection.
- If, indeed, FIS is suggesting that the northbound Rt 355 left hand turn restriction at Alta Vista Rd be eliminated in the A.M., this would run counter to Montgomery County's policy of discouraging cut-through traffic (likely to Rt. 187). The northbound left-hand turn restriction on Rt. 355 at Alta Vista Rd works in conjunction with the A.M. left-hand turn restriction at Linden Avenue and Pooks Hill Road to prevent cut-through traffic onto Beech Ave (two-lane road). A planned development of a currently forested parcel on Beech Ave will add to current heavy traffic related to the YMCA, Bethesda Country Day School and the FIS high school.
- In addition, major safety concerns would increase if the northbound left- hand turn restriction on Rt. 355 at Alta Vista Rd was eliminated in the A.M. The ability of southbound Rt. 355 drivers attempting U-turns at Alta Vista Rd to see northbound travel lane traffic would be significantly reduced by vehicles in the northbound left-hand turn bay at Alta Vista Rd.

In addressing the increased traffic created by the proposed project, the authorities appear to divert FIS exiting traffic into the Maplewood neighborhood rather than onto Rt. 355 which presents a major concern for Maplewood. I would appreciate the opportunity to be present and to speak when the final traffic comments are presented for discussion with the authorities and FIS. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President



**Folden, Matthew**

---

**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 11:22 AM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew; Reilly, Kathy; Rebecca.torma@montgomerycountymd.gov; deepak.somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov; dgunn@modot.maryland.gov; kwoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov; sholcomb@mdot.maryland.gov; apowell@primeeng.com; ERigby@mdot.maryland.gov  
**Cc:** brown@knopf-brown.com  
**Subject:** Traffic Management Plan For New French International Elementary School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

On behalf of the Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) I would like to address several issues with regard to the proposed French International School (FIS) elementary school on the FASEB property that seemingly have not received the appropriate attention by MCDOT, SHA and the Planning Board (henceforth, known as "authorities"). It appears that a comprehensive view of the proposed project to include the implications of suggested traffic patterns in Maplewood has not been taken into consideration.

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approach for the traffic desiring to enter the FASEB property. This idea does not appear to have been considered. If U-turns for northbound Rt. 355 traffic are continued to be allowed at Pooks Hill Rd, the left-hand turn bay capacity may overflow onto the northbound travel lane creating additional challenges at that rather complicated intersection.

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In addressing the increased traffic created by the proposed project, the authorities appear to divert FIS exiting traffic into the Maplewood neighborhood rather than onto Rt. 355 which presents a major concern for Maplewood. I would appreciate the opportunity to be present and to speak when the final traffic comments are presented for discussion with the authorities and FIS. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association



**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Reilly, Kathy  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 4:15 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Cc:** Torma, Rebecca; Somarajan, Deepak  
**Subject:** FW: French School Traffic Issues

FYI

Kathy

**From:** David Brown <brown@knopf-brown.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 3:57 PM  
**To:** Reilly, Kathy <kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Cc:** 'Jonathan Cutler' <jmc@premierinvestment.com>; 'Allen Myers' <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Subject:** French School Traffic Issues

Kathy,

Allen Myers of Maplewood CA has been keeping me in the loop regarding the back and forth communications between the French International School and SHA regarding traffic issues associated with the School's planned relocation to the FASEB property along MD 355. My client is The Promenade, a large apartment complex atop Pooks Hill, whose residents are regular users of MD 355 south of Pooks Hill Road and thus are familiar with traffic conditions there at all times of the day or week, which are challenging. We therefore very much appreciate Allen's close scrutiny of the likely impact of the School on the situation, as he brings a wealth of long-time knowledge and experience regarding the challenges of accommodating increased traffic in the Maplewood/Alta Vista/Pooks Hill area. We strongly support a continuation and expansion of the dialogue involving Planning Board staff, the applicant and SHA, to include the community, and, in particular Allen, in resolving traffic concerns. If one or more community meetings is held including Maplewood, please let me know, and I will make every effort to attend on behalf of The Promenade. You can expect Maplewood's and my clients' interests to be fairly closely aligned on this matter as you complete your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dave Brown  
Knopf & Brown  
Counsel for The Promenade  
(301) 545-6100

**Balmer, Emily**

---

**From:** Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:51 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Cc:** Reilly, Kathy; Hisel-McCoy, Elza  
**Subject:** Re: Pooks Hill & French International School  
**Attachments:** 0815\_001.pdf; FASEB Bylaws.pdf; FIS Tierney Rpt. 2-12-02.pdf

David:

I've had a good working relationship with Matthew Folden of the Planning Staff. I thought that you should have this e-mail I sent him. I'm adding the attachments.

Allen

On May 29, 2018, at 5:22 PM, Allen Myers <almyers@starpower.net> wrote:

Matt:

Thanks for getting back to me. To clarify my points for any staff who may wish to respond to me. First, FAES is not a Private Educational Institution - never has been and never will be unless the County continues to characterize it as that which led it be called a For-Profit Educational Institution which, in turn, lead FIS to initially request the assumption of a similar Special Exception rather than being treated *de novo*. After much discussion with FIS counsel, he requested that the FIS Conditional Use Permit be referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings. The record with respect to FAES is that it was initially granted a Special Exception as a "Scientific Organization." However, in 1977 when FASEB applied for a modification of its Special Exception to increase parking on the site, that category of Special Exception no longer existed. So, FASEB submitted documents to reflect that it was a non-profit organization which were accepted by the Board of Appeals, *see attachment*. The Bylaws of FASEB state that it is a "501(c)(3) organization, *see attached*". Calling FASEB a private educational institution makes it appear similar in nature to the current Special Exception holder, FASEB when in fact it has no classes or curriculum, no teaching staff, no athletic field, etc.

With respect to the storage of buses on-site. I realize that FIS may find several advantages to this proposal, but in fact, and attempted to do so in 2001 when the high school on Forest Road was constructed. These buses were eventually removed. *See attached decision by ALJ Tierney*. However, the Zoning Ordinance was changed in 2009 to prohibit the storage of large commercial vehicles in residential zones. To be fair to FIS, I have advised their counsel that if they wish to seek a Variance as part of their application, I would bring it to the MCA membership for discussion and vote. But simply ignoring this provision of the Zoning Ordinance is not acceptable to us.

As to the revised transportation plan, the attached material is what FIS presented to the MCA membership on May 16th. That transportation plan indicated that neighborhood streets would not be utilized by the school. If the revised plan changes that, it is only fair that this neighborhood be afforded

an opportunity to review the plan and comment on it since such a plan would have a major impact on several roads within Maplewood.

Likewise, as you can see from the attached material presented at the May 16th MCA meeting, it appears that there will be little after-school, weekend, or summer use of the location. This is not born out by the FIS application and I believe that is disingenuous for FIS not to have included this aspect of its application in its presentation to our membership.

Sincerely,  
Allen Myers, President  
Maplewood Citizens Association

<0815\_001.pdf>  
<FASEB Bylaws.pdf>  
<FIS Tierney Rpt. 2-12-02.pdf>  
<Rockville Pike Campus MCA Meeting May 16 2018.pdf>

On May 29, 2018, at 4:36 PM, Folden, Matthew  
<[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)> wrote:

Hi Allen,

Thanks for your message. I am responding via e-mail to keep Kathy Reilly, lead reviewer, in the loop and deferring several of your questions to her. For your reference, I am completing the transportation review of this project, but Kathy is leading the overall review.

1. Staff has not received a Transit Enhancement Agreement from the Quadrangle development team. In accordance with Condition of Approval #8.a (820160080), the Applicant, Planning Board, and MCDOT must enter into such an agreement prior to the release of any above grade building permit.
2. I'll defer the following concerns to Kathy Reilly as they relate to the application at-large:
  - a. Your concern about the French School's characterization of the FASEB organization, and
  - b. The issue of storing commercial vehicles (shuttle buses associated with the private school use) on the site.
3. I issued comments to the applicant on the initial Transportation Impact Study (TIS) and requested that a revised copy be submitted for review so that the analysis is consistent with other documents in the submittal package and the County's standard practices for transportation analysis, as set forth in the *Local Area Transportation Review Guidelines*. It is common practice for staff to request revisions to submittal materials during the course of review. All revised documents will be available on the County's Development Application

Information Center (DAIC) website  
at: [http://www.mcatlas.org/Development\\_Info/Default.aspx](http://www.mcatlas.org/Development_Info/Default.aspx)

4. The proposed site operations, including anticipated uses (after-school, extra-curricular activities, etc.), are detailed in the applicant's statement of justification document. This document can be found at: [https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UserFilesSource/15046/50545/S-862-C%2006\\_%20%20Applicant%20Justification.pdf/S-862-C%2006\\_%20%20Applicant%20Justification.pdf](https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UserFilesSource/15046/50545/S-862-C%2006_%20%20Applicant%20Justification.pdf/S-862-C%2006_%20%20Applicant%20Justification.pdf)

Matt

**Matthew Folden, AICP** | Planner Coordinator  
Montgomery County Planning Department | Planning Area 1  
8787 Georgia Avenue | Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301.495.4539 | [matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Myers <[almyers@starpower.net](mailto:almyers@starpower.net)>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 2:42 PM  
To: Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
Subject: Pooks Hill & French International School

Matt:

Am I correct in assuming that you have heard nothing further from Quadrangle about its Enhance Transportation Management Plan? Secondly, I understand that you are handling the Conditional Use Application by the French International School. I need to talk to you about several things regarding this application: First, they completely mis-characterize the type of organization that FASEB is. S, the issue of storing the school buses on the property in my opinion violates the 2009 amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that precludes the storing of large commercial vehicles in residential zones. I have spoken to their counsel on these matters several times and he persists in proceeding as if I had never talked to him.

I also understand that there is the need for the school to present a new transportation plan. If that is the case, the transportation plan presented to the Maplewood Citizens Association on May 16th will not be accurate and we need an opportunity to review the new plans impact on our neighborhood. In addition, the list of after-school and extra-curricular activities shown in the application were not presented to either the MCA executive committee in March or the our member on May 16th. This type of convenient omission is not to be taken lightly and if you look at the Zoning history of their Forest Road campus, you will see similar instances of this type of behavior.

Please call me at (301) 530-4441 at your convenience. I will be out of the house tomorrow morning as well as Friday morning.

Thanks,  
Allen

<b>FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)</b> <b>PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS</b> <b>9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda</b>		
Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
S-862 July 6, 1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit construction of additional parking area (adjacent to eastern boundary) and modification of northern service driveway</li> <li>Previous use no longer a zoning use category, so amended the special exception approval to an "Educational Institution"</li> </ul>	Development according to plans entered into the record as Exhibit 14(b)
S-862 March 30, 1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension of existing use as a private educational institution into a new wing to be constructed as an addition to the existing building (5 story addition)</li> <li>Employees increase from 201 to 326 with the new wing</li> <li>Office hours of 8:30am – 5pm but some as early as 7am and some as late as 7pm (15% offsite at any given time)</li> <li>Requested deferral of 48 of the required 326 parking spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant will submit revised landscape plan which addresses the northern property line, the location of the on-site service drive, parking along the service drive, and the landscaping of the subject property between the service drive and the property to the north.</li> <li>The Board will review the SE again months after completion of the construction and occupancy so that the Board can verify whether there is a need for additional 48 spaces which are deferred until necessary.</li> <li>Petitioner shall notify the Board of completion of both phases and occupancy.</li> <li>Has 3 years to implement</li> </ul>
S-862 Jan. 29, 1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice that phases 1 and 2 are substantially complete along with drawings to show construction</li> <li>Opened the record to submit as-builts</li> </ul>	
CBA-1998 June 23, 1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permission to erect a fence in the location shown on plans; enclosed fence that would be no more than 6' in height</li> </ul>	

**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)  
PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS  
9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda**

Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
S-862-A  October 11, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consolidated cases S-862-A and A-5590</li><li>• Denied request to waive requirement for a building permit denial for variance case A-5590</li></ul>	

**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)  
PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS  
9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda**

Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
<p>S-862-A &amp; A-5599</p> <p>December 28, 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant permission for modification and variance for construction of new building (11'4") and new parking structure (13')</li> </ul>	<p>Comply with APF test for transportation requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicate 60' from the centerline of Wisconsin Avenue to provide for 120' ROW</li> <li>Install a bus shelter at one existing bus stop on Rockville Pike within ¼ mile from the site</li> <li>Erect a gate at the rear entrance activated by access cards distributed to a maximum of 80 employees to limit vehicular traffic on Alta Vista Terrace during am and pm traffic periods; Provide annual electronic record of those with access to the community; Prohibit commercial and construction traffic from using rear entrance</li> <li>Implement transportation management plan (exhibit 60) (which requires creation of a Community Council) with changes of addition of Locust Hill Citizens Association representative on community council; performance of traffic survey whenever requested by 3 community council members.</li> </ul> <p>Also must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of a tree save plan for specimen or significant trees by MNCPPC</li> <li>Comply with SWM requirements</li> </ul>

<b>FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)</b> <b>PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS</b> <b>9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda</b>		
Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
S-862-A A-5599  Feb. 14, 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on FSEB efforts to mitigate traffic impacts on the surrounding community and the creation of a Community Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires to submit the minutes of the meetings of the Community Council to the Board</li> <li>Requires written explanation from FASEB of why People's Council was not included in the first 2 meetings of the Community Council</li> </ul>
S-862-A A-5599  April 24, 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of revised version of Annual Report to meet TMP requirements</li> </ul>	
S-862-A A-5599  March 8, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modification of special exception to remove previously proposed roof screen on new administrative building and to re-locate additional parking spaces approved in prior modification, further away from neighboring properties on Alta Vista Terrace to areas internal to the property and behind the building.</li> </ul>	
S-862-A A-5599  August 12, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidation of two cases</li> </ul>	
S-862-B A-6008  March 17, 2005	Remanded the case to the Hearing Examiner to determine 1) information specific to the lease of space for the non-profit incubator and 2) clarify why PATR should not apply to this case	



**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)  
PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS  
9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda**

Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
<p>S-862-B A-6008  May 20, 2005</p>	<p>Modification to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace Lee Building with new building;</li> <li>• Construct internal circular driveway between new replacement building and existing parking structure</li> <li>• Add 40,000 sf addition to the new building and an extension of the new parking structure to contain approximately 104 spaces</li> <li>• Increase 78 parking spaces for a total of 512 spaces</li> <li>• Increase number of employees by 120 to a maximum of 700</li> <li>• Lease a portion of the special exception space to the MC Department of Economic Development for non-profit incubator</li> </ul> <p>Variance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovation and expansion of existing garage requires 1.91' variance as it is within 52.25' of side lot line and required setback is 54.16'</li> <li>• Construction of 4 level parking garage requires 31.92' variance as it is within 52.25' of side lot line (required setback is 84.17')</li> <li>• Proposed construction of new building 57' in height requires 22' variance from 35' height limit</li> </ul>	<p>Must comply with LATR requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit development to expansion of existing office building to an additional 40,000 sf of office use for a total of 207,912 sf</li> <li>• Install 3 additional bus shelters along northbound Rockville Pike in the vicinity of the campus or other location in the B-CC area for a total of 4 shelters;</li> <li>• Continue to use the TMP (Exhibit 9a)</li> <li>• Final Tree Save Plan must be submitted</li> <li>• Final SWM and Sediment and Erosion control plans shall be approved by SPS and be consistent with final tree save plan;</li> </ul> <p>Tree save plan shall address following issues before approval will be granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed tree save plan must be prepared by ISA certified arborist and include the delineation and determination of significant impacts (&gt;30%) to critical root zones of all trees over 24" dbh that will be impacted by construction activities;</li> <li>• Mitigation may be required for any specimen trees, if encroachment on the critical root zone of 30% or more is avoidable; mitigation may be required for removal of specimen trees up to a rate of 2:1 on an inch-per-inch basis</li> </ul>

**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)  
PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS  
9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda**

Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
		<p>Also must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not exceed 580 employees until construction of the garage extension is completed and open for use. At that time, may not exceed 700 employees total.</li> <li>• The transportation coordinator under the TMP must report any instances of queuing on public streets awaiting entry to campus or reports of parking on public streets by FASEB employees in annual report to the BOA. If the BPA determines the increase in employees is creating an adverse condition on nearby public streets, it may revoke the waiver of parking standards or require additional remedies</li> <li>• Must obtain subdivision approval</li> </ul>
<p>S-862-B A-6008</p> <p>June 16, 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of annual report for implementation of the TMP</li> </ul>	
<p>S-862-B A-6008</p> <p>March 15, 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postpone razing and replacement of existing Lee Building.</li> </ul>	

**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY (FASEB)  
PREVIOUS SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPINIONS  
9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda**

Case Number / Date	Details of Approval	Additional Conditions of Approval
S-862-B  May 27, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report on implementation of its Transportation Management Plan submitted</li> </ul>	
S-862-B  June 3, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report submitted</li> </ul>	

December 12, 2020

Mr. Matthew Folden  
Planner Coordinator  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
DownCounty Planning Division  
2425 Reddie Drive, 13th Floor  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Mr. Folden:

I understand that the current transportation plan for the French International School (FIS) (S-862C) will rely heavily on bus transportation and a shuttle service between the two FIS campuses. As my earlier correspondence indicates, I have long believed that only mandatory busing will make this site work for the proposed school population. I also appreciate that the plan does not permit pedestrian or car access from Alta Vista Road and the neighborhood because such access would create parking on local streets that would impede the flow of traffic on our already dangerously busy streets. Having examined the school's plans, I do have some concerns about the busing plans and ask that you make the following staff recommendations to the board:

1) **Protect our pedestrian-friendly neighborhood streets.** Maplewood-Alta Vista local roads (including Alta Vista Road) are full of children playing and walking to Maplewood-Alta Vista Park, neighbors walking dogs, and kids running to and from their Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) bus stops. Those of us that have spent time standing at MCPS bus stops can attest to the frequency with which drivers cut through the neighborhood on Alta Vista Road at dangerous speeds sometimes illegally passing buses. The influx of additional FIS-related cut-through traffic is certain to exacerbate this problem and is inconsistent with the County's Vision Zero Initiative to reduce fatal pedestrian traffic accidents. FIS traffic must be managed to protect the safety of the Maplewood-Alta Vista residents. Notably, pedestrian-bus accidents are many times more fatal than pedestrian-car accidents. As described below, bus routes should therefore be managed to avoid local neighborhood roads.

2) **Require all FIS buses departing the Rockville Pike site to proceed South to West Cedar Lane before proceeding on their route.** As you know, all busses departing the Rockville Pike campus will have to head south regardless of their destination. The 4 shuttle buses that will each make 3 trips per day (12 bus trips) in addition to many of the 13 other school buses that will also depart campus 3 times per day (39 bus trips) will need to turn around to head to points North, West and East. Combined, there will be up to 52 bus trips departing the Rockville Pike campus daily. These buses should not be permitted to cut through the Maplewood-Alta Vista neighborhood utilizing local roads. This amount of bus

traffic (and even the 12 trips per today of the Shuttle bus) are incompatible with local neighborhood roads such as Alta Vista Road. Allowing such bus traffic on our local roads will endanger pedestrians, generate unacceptable noise, air pollution, and is certain to cause traffic congestion at the Rockville Pike/Alta Vista intersection, where buses will have difficulty making a tight right hand turn without impeding traffic exiting the neighborhood. The Montgomery County school buses currently face this challenge at the intersection. This amount of bus traffic is inconsistent with the residential nature of our neighborhood. I also note that the bus trips will not be significantly delayed by proceeding to West Cedar Lane. This is particularly true for the mid- and late afternoon trips because southbound traffic on Rockville Pike is not particularly heavy in the afternoon.

**3) Ensure that mandatory bus requirements extend to Saturday and summer programming.** It is not clear whether busing will be provided and “mandatory” for the Saturday school and summer camp. If not, there will be many more trips to campus on Saturdays and during summer months that are not reflected in the FIS traffic study. The traffic impact on all days of the week and every month of the year needs to be considered. Running extensive programming on campus without mandatory busing on Saturdays and during summer months will burden our local roads and contribute to congestion on Rockville Pike that is already overburdened.

**4) Ensure that measures are in place to address increased traffic burden on Rockville Pike if increased traffic on Alta Vista and Elsmere leads to turn restrictions.** During the school year, there are many exceptions to the “mandatory busing,” so it is unclear how many parents will be driving to the school and whether the mandatory busing requirement will actually be enforced. I suspect that the neighborhood will find that despite the promises of “mandatory busing,” hundreds of cars are cutting down Alta Vista Road after departing the FIS site. When that happens, we may seek turn restrictions that prevent Southbound right turns on Alta Vista Road and Elsmere Avenue. I also note that in a recent presentation to the neighborhood association, FIS displayed a map of “safe routes” to and from the site that it indicated it intended to use to educate parents about how they should proceed to and from campus. This map advised parents to cut through the Maplewood-Alta Vista neighborhood suggesting that cut through traffic will be significant and will likely have to be addressed by turn restrictions. You should review the proposal with these possible turn restrictions in mind.

**5) Ensure mandatory busing requirement for students at Rockville Pike campus will not drive additional traffic to Forest Road campus.** The traffic around the Forest Road campus already creates a major bottleneck on Beech Avenue that impedes entry and exit from the neighborhood. Beech Avenue cannot accommodate hundreds of new trips delivering students who will attend

school at the Rockville Pike location. If the requirement that students arrive at the Rockville Pike campus permits families (regardless of whether they have siblings enrolled at the Forest Road campus) to drop their students at the Forest Road camps, so the students can take inter-campus shuttle bus, this could generate significant new trips along Beech Avenue.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter Umhofer  
5031 Alta Vista Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Cc: Stephanie Dickel, Montgomery County Planning Department

**Folden, Matthew**

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**From:** Peter Umhofer <pumhofer@e2strategic.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 3:44 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie; Hisel-McCoy, Elza; Mencarini, Katherine  
**Subject:** RE: status report

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Thank you very much for the update regarding the property at 9650 Rockville Pike and the proposed French School. Today, I received in the mail a copy of the Board of Appeals for Montgomery County resolution to transfer special exemption permit (Case No. S-257-A) to Hope Connections, Inc. Does this mean that the French School has withdrawn their request to use the property at 9650 Rockville Pike and is the entire property now owned by Hope Connections, Inc.?

**From:** Folden, Matthew <matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:31 AM  
**To:** Peter Umhofer <pumhofer@e2strategic.com>  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie <Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org>; Hisel-McCoy, Elza <elza.hisel-mccoy@montgomeryplanning.org>; Mencarini, Katherine <katherine.mencarini@montgomeryplanning.org>  
**Subject:** RE: status report

Mr. Umhofer,

Thank you for contacting me about the proposed relocation of the French School at 9650 Rockville Pike. Planning staff did not meet with the Applicant and transportation agencies last week, though there has been recent on-going coordination between each of these agencies and the Applicant to resolve outstanding transportation issues.

At this time, the French School is proposing a robust bus program, though not all students would be bused to the site. The current traffic study is under review and Planning staff are waiting for formal comments from both MCDOT and MDSHA regarding their findings. A copy of the traffic study is available here for your reference:

[https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/15046/50545/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20\(2.20.20\).pdf/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20\(2.20.20\).pdf](https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/15046/50545/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20(2.20.20).pdf/S-862%20FIS%20FASEB%20LATR%20(2.20.20).pdf)

At this time, there are no public hearings with either the Planning Board or Hearing Examiner on this project. Once Planning staff receive recommendations from MCDOT and MDSHA, I will move forward with preparation of the staff report and scheduling a public hearing. If you have been receiving notice via mail about this application, you should receive notice of the public hearing once it is scheduled. If you have not received notice about this project in the past and would like to receive notice, please let me know.

Please contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

Respectfully,



**Matthew Folden, AICP**  
**Planner Coordinator**

Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)  
o: 301.495.4539



Let's Plan Our Future. Together. THRIVE  
THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**From:** Peter Umhofer <[pumhofer@e2strategic.com](mailto:pumhofer@e2strategic.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 1:47 PM  
**To:** Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Pfefferle, Mark <[mark.pfefferle@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:mark.pfefferle@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: status report

Thank you again for the information regarding the French School at 9650 Rockville Pike. I understand there was a meeting last week with the Planning Department, MCDOT, and SHA regarding access to the property. Is it accurate the latest French School proposal would have all students will come by bus on Rockville Pike, with younger students dropped off and picked up by parents who will also use the Rockville Pike entrance? If approved by staff, when do you expect the Board hearing? What is the status of the latest traffic study?

**From:** Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:42 AM  
**To:** Peter Umhofer <[pumhofer@e2strategic.com](mailto:pumhofer@e2strategic.com)>; Reilly, Kathy <[kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Pfefferle, Mark <[mark.pfefferle@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:mark.pfefferle@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Cc:** Dickel, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: status report

Mr. Umhofer,

Thank you for getting back in touch regarding the proposed Special Exception for the French School at 9650 Rockville Pike. You probably received an automatic reply from Kathy's email indicating that she retired in November. As a result, I am now leading the review on behalf of MNCPPC.

Since we last met, the Applicant has been coordinating with MCDOT, MNCPPC, and MDSHA to address safety and access issues along Rockville Pike. At this time, the Applicant is preparing revised plans based on that coordination.

I expect a revised formal submittal on this project sometime this spring, however, I do not know the exact timing. Please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Respectfully,





**Matthew Folden, AICP**  
**Planner Coordinator**

Montgomery County Planning Department  
 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)  
 o: 301.495.4539



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 THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**From:** Peter Umhofer <[pumhofer@e2strategic.com](mailto:pumhofer@e2strategic.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:49 PM  
**To:** Reilly, Kathy <[kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Pfeifferle, Mark <[mark.pfeifferle@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:mark.pfeifferle@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** status report

Thank you again for taking the time to meet at the Montgomery County Planning Dept offices on March 20, 2019. I wanted to inquire on the status of the Special Exception Amendment Application (S-862-C) and the ongoing transportation review for the proposed French International School located at 9650 Rockville Pike.

**From:** Wright, Gwen <[gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** Peter Umhofer <[pumhofer@e2strategic.com](mailto:pumhofer@e2strategic.com)>  
**Cc:** Reilly, Kathy <[kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:kathy.reilly@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Folden, Matthew <[matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:matthew.folden@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Pfeifferle, Mark <[mark.pfeifferle@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:mark.pfeifferle@montgomeryplanning.org)>; Anderson, Casey <[Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org)>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <[Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: resident ltr re: french school

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Umhofer:

Thank you for your email correspondence, received on April 2, 2019, regarding transportation concerns related to the Special Exception Amendment Application (S-862-C) for the French International School located at 9650 Rockville Pike. This Amendment Application proposes to allow 700 students and 195 staff to relocate to this property from two existing French International School campuses elsewhere in the County.

Your email message focused on the proposed new access point onto Alta Vista Road at the rear of the subject site and the associated traffic impacts to this road and the surrounding roadway network that would result from this new access point. The Planning Board and Planning staff will take note of the issues that you have raised in your correspondence on Special Exception Amendment Application S-862-C. We will consider your points and your letter will be attached to the staff report when it is eventually published (10 days before the Board's hearing.)

Presently, this Special Exception Amendment Application has been indefinitely continued by the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) to allow the applicant additional time to revise their submitted materials, including the proposed traffic study. We do not have a date set for when this project will come before the Planning Board. In addition to adding your letter to our files, your letter has been forwarded to the applicant's development team for their review and so that they can be aware of the issues that you have raised.

If you have additional questions or comments, please contact me or Kathy Reilly of my staff  
([Kathy.Reilly@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:Kathy.Reilly@montgomeryplanning.org)).

Sincerely,  
Gwen Wright

Gwen Marcus Wright  
Planning Director | Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue | Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
[gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org)  
301-495-4500 office | 571-329-3053 cell



**From:** Peter Umhofer <[pumhofer@e2strategic.com](mailto:pumhofer@e2strategic.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2019 5:41 PM  
**To:** Wright, Gwen <[gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org)>  
**Subject:** resident ltr re: french school

On March 20, 2019, we had the opportunity to meet with your staff regarding the French International School special exemption amendment (DAIC 8862C). Attached is a letter that outlines six issues that we recommend that the Planning Department and Commission address as you consider on the amendment.

April 1, 2019

Ms. Gwen Wright  
Planning Director  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Wright:

We are writing to express our serious concerns with the proposed French International School special exemption amendment and transportation plan (DAIC No. 8862C). We would also like to thank your staff - Kathleen Reilly, Mark Pfefferle and Matthew Folden - for taking the time to meet us on March 20, 2019. The meeting was helpful and informative.

As you know, when FIS purchased this property, they intended to have all school traffic enter and exit the school from Rockville Pike. Due to concerns about vehicle crossing three lanes of traffic and u turns, the County Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration (SHA) has indicated that plan will not work. The Planning Department has suggested to FIS that they could address the concerns of the SHA by cutting a driveway to Alta Vista Road and then funneling traffic to the intersection of Alta Vista and Rockville Pike.

I fear that this suggestion does not reflect a deep understanding of traffic surrounding the property at issue. Below are a number of traffic issues/concerns that should be considered in the final analysis and recommendation:

- 1) Southbound Rockville Pike is extremely congested during morning rush hour. The back-up typically begins somewhere north of downtown Bethesda, is very heavy near National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Military Medical Center and extends from the West Cedar intersection all the way to the Beltway. A

pedestrian walking to the NIH metro from the Alta Vista intersection is often making faster progress than the cars. Adding traffic associated with a 700+ student school to this corridor does not make sense. There simply is no capacity on Rockville Pike to accommodate this traffic.

- 2) Routing traffic to Alta Vista Road will not create capacity on Rockville Pike and will prevent residents of Alta Vista from moving about freely. My understanding is that the Planning Department and Transportation Department are proposing that FIS traffic exit the school on Alta Vista and be required to turn left toward the Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection. Given the congestion described above, this will cause a major back-up on Alta Vista. Any traffic attempting to head south, will not be able to do so because there is nowhere to go. With cars parked on both sides of Alta Vista (note that the houses here have no garage or 1 car garage so eliminating street parking for residents is not an option), that intersection is not wide enough to allow some cars to proceed left, while others turn right, therefore, no matter how long the light is green, very few cars will get through during any green cycle. In addition, southbound traffic regularly blocks this intersection preventing cars that would turn left to head North (assuming no one in front of them is waiting to proceed South) from proceeding through the intersection. The backup caused by adding significant traffic to this intersection will extend down Alta Vista and make it impossible for the Residents of Alta Vista to exit their driveways to proceed to work and school themselves.
- 3) Any adjustment to the light length at Alta Vista/ Rockville Pike will cause increased congestion on Rockville Pike. Allowing more cars to flow out of Alta Vista will necessarily require holding southbound cars at the light longer, causing increased backup to the Beltway and up Rockville Pike toward Grosvenor Lane. In the afternoon, of course, the northbound traffic will have to be held to allow school traffic to exit Alta Vista, contributing to already difficult congestion on Rockville Pike from Jones Bridge Road to the Beltway.
- 4) Requiring a left turn onto Alta Vista will not prevent cut through traffic and may exacerbate congestion at the Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection. Given the problems described above, drivers exiting the school will almost certainly ignore signage requiring that they turn left toward Rockville Pike. Alternatively, they will turn left then turn right on Wickett Street and loop back to Alta Vista Road and proceed Westbound into the neighborhood. The Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection does not have capacity to handle significantly increased traffic. It does not make sense to route all school traffic to that intersection.
- 5) Bus traffic and pollution. MCPS buses currently pass down Alta Vista 6 times per day. They are noisy and somewhat disruptive to residents of Alta Vista. Adding an additional 20-30 bus trips down a residential street would create a serious nuisance to residents of Alta Vista and expose them to unacceptable levels of diesel pollution. In addition, with cars parking on both sides of Alta Vista, I do not think that two buses could pass through the intersection of Alta Vista/Rockville pike as would be necessitated if the MCPS buses cross paths with the FIS buses (which would seem difficult if not impossible to prevent). Finally, the condition of Alta Vista Road is horrible. It is in severe need of re-pavement and adding additional bus traffic to this Road will only exacerbate this problem.
- 6) Adding transportation for an additional 700+ students will create choke points for the Maplewood/Alta Vista neighborhood. As noted above, requiring a left hand turn onto Alta Vista from the anticipated new FIS drive will not prevent the cars and buses delivering 700+ students from driving elsewhere through the neighborhood. There is already a significant back-up at the Beech/Old Georgetown and Pooks Hill/Rockville Pike intersections during rush hour. Adding a significant number of new trips in and/or out of the neighborhood during the same rush hours will inevitably exacerbate the existing back-ups making it difficult for residents to get to work and school.

I would like to be able to offer a solution to the challenges outlined above. However, I fear that there is not an attractive one. Perhaps the best approach would be for all students to arrive by bus from some less congested area. But, I fear even that will not be workable given the existing congestion and turn restrictions on Rockville Pike and the inappropriateness of routing dozens of private school buses through a residential neighborhood, turning our street into a de-facto bus depot.

We request that the Planning Department and Transportation Department consider these views as you consider the FIS application and make a final recommendation to the County Planning Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate us at 301-571-4633.

Sincerely,

Peter and Rebecca Umhofer  
5031 Alta Vista Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Cc: Ms. Kathleen Reilly, Coordinator Area 1, M-NCPPC  
Mr. Mark Pfefferle, Acting Chief, Area 1, M-NCPPC  
Mr. Matthew Folden, Area 1, M-NCPPC  
Mr. Casey Anderson, Chairman, Planning Board  
Hon. Andrew Friedson, Councilmember, Montgomery County

**Balmer, Emily**

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**From:** Torma, Rebecca <Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 1:53 PM  
**To:** Reilly, Kathy  
**Cc:** Folden, Matthew; Somarajan, Deepak  
**Subject:** FW: traffic and safety on Alta Vista Road, Rockville Pike

FYI

Rebecca Torma | Manager, Development Review  
Director's Office | Department of Transportation  
101 Monroe Street  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville MD 20850  
(240) 777-2118 (direct)  
(240) 777-7170  
[Rebecca.torma@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Rebecca.torma@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**From:** Peter Umhofer <pumhofer@e2strategic.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** Roshdieh, Al <Al.Roshdieh@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Paylor, Michael L.  
<Michael.Paylor@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Cupples, Tim <Tim.Cupples@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Somarajan, Deepak <Deepak.Somarajan@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Torma, Rebecca <Rebecca.Torma-Kim@montgomerycountymd.gov>; afutrell@sha.state.md.us; kwoodroffe@mdot.maryland.gov  
**Subject:** traffic and safety on Alta Vista Road, Rockville Pike

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

August 7, 2019

Mr. Al Roshdieh  
Director  
Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850-2450

Dear Mr. Roshdieh:

We are writing to express our serious concerns with the proposed French International School (FIS) Special Exception Amendment Application and transportation plan (S-862-C; 18APMO022XX). On August 5, two Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) staff visited the site and spoke with us. And on March 20, we met with the Montgomery County Planning Department staff and would like to raise some traffic-specific issues and request they be studied now and during the school year.

As you know, when FIS purchased this property, they intended to have all school traffic enter and exit the school from Rockville Pike. Due to concerns about vehicle crossing three lanes of traffic and u turns, MCDOT and the State Highway Administration (SHA) have indicated that plan will not work. The Planning Department has suggested to FIS that they could address the concerns of the SHA by cutting a driveway to Alta Vista Road and then funneling traffic to the intersection of Alta Vista and Rockville Pike.

We fear that this suggestion does not reflect a deep understanding of traffic in the area and the property at issue. Below are **a number of traffic issues/concerns** that should be addressed:

- 1) Southbound Rockville Pike is extremely congested during morning rush hour. The back-up typically begins somewhere north of downtown Bethesda, is very heavy near National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Military Medical Center and extends from the West Cedar intersection all the way to the Beltway. A pedestrian walking to the NIH metro from the Alta Vista intersection is often making faster progress than the cars. Adding traffic associated with a 700 student school to this corridor does not make sense. There simply is no capacity on Rockville Pike to accommodate this traffic.
- 2) Routing traffic to Alta Vista Road will not create capacity on Rockville Pike and will prevent residents of Alta Vista from moving about freely. My understanding is that the Planning Department and Transportation Department are proposing that FIS traffic exit the school on Alta Vista and be required to turn left toward the Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection. Given the congestion described above, this will cause a major back-up on Alta Vista. Any traffic attempting to head south, will not be able to do so because there is nowhere to go. With cars parked on both sides of Alta Vista (note that the houses here have no garage or 1 car garage so eliminating street parking for residents is not an option), that intersection is not wide enough to allow some cars to proceed left, while others turn right, therefore, no matter how long the light is green, very few cars will get through during any green cycle. Southbound traffic blocks this intersection preventing cars that would turn left to head North (assuming no one in front of them is waiting to proceed South) from proceeding through the intersection. The backup caused by adding significant traffic to this intersection will extend down Alta Vista and make it impossible for the Residents of Alta Vista to exit their driveways to proceed to work and school themselves.
- 3) Adding transportation for an additional 700 students and 195 staff will create choke points for the Maplewood/Alta Vista neighborhood. Requiring a left hand turn onto Alta Vista from the anticipated new FIS drive will not prevent the cars and buses delivering 700+ students from driving elsewhere through the neighborhood. There is already a significant back-up at the Beech/Old Georgetown and Pooks Hill/Rockville Pike intersections during rush hour. Adding a significant number of new trips in and/or out of the neighborhood during the same rush hours will inevitably exacerbate the existing back-ups making it difficult for residents to get to work and school.
- 4) Vehicles often run through the red light on Rockville Pike and the intersection of Alta Vista Road. Even when the light is green, drivers at Alta Vista Road have to triple check to ensure safe passage before turning left or right on to Rockville Pike. A traffic camera that can issue tickets should be considered.
- 5) Any adjustment to the light length at Alta Vista/ Rockville Pike will cause increased congestion on Rockville Pike. Allowing more cars to flow out of Alta Vista will necessarily require holding southbound cars at the light longer, causing increased backup to the Beltway and up Rockville Pike toward Grosvenor Lane. In the afternoon, of course, the northbound traffic will have to be held to allow school traffic to exit Alta Vista, contributing to already difficult congestion on Rockville Pike from Jones Bridge Road to the Beltway.
- 6) Requiring a left turn onto Alta Vista will not prevent cut through traffic and may exacerbate congestion at the Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection. Given the problems described above, drivers exiting the school will almost certainly ignore signage requiring that they turn left toward Rockville Pike. Alternatively, they will turn left then turn right on Wickett Street and loop back to Alta Vista Road and proceed Westbound into the neighborhood. The Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection does not have capacity to handle significantly increased traffic. It does not make sense to route all school traffic to that intersection.
- 7) Bus traffic and pollution. MCPS buses currently pass down Alta Vista 6 times per day. They are noisy and somewhat disruptive to residents of Alta Vista. Adding an additional 20-30 bus trips down a residential street would create a serious nuisance to residents of Alta Vista and expose them to unacceptable levels of diesel pollution. In addition, with cars parking on both sides of Alta Vista, I do not think that two buses could pass through the intersection of Alta Vista/Rockville pike as would be necessitated if the MCPS buses cross paths with the FIS buses (which would seem difficult if not impossible to prevent). Finally, the condition of Alta Vista Road is horrible. It is in severe need of re-pavement and adding additional bus traffic to this Road will only exacerbate this problem.

We would like to be able to offer a solution to the challenges outlined above. However, we fear that there is not an attractive one. Perhaps the best approach would be for all students to arrive by bus from some less congested area. But, we fear even that will not be workable given the existing congestion and turn restrictions

We request that the Planning Department and Transportation Department consider these views as you consider the FIS application and make a final recommendation to the County Planning Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate us at 301-571-4633.

Sincerely,

Peter and Rebecca Umhofer  
5031 Alta Vista Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Cc: Ms. Kathleen Reilly, Coordinator Area 1, M-NCPPC  
Mr. Mark Pfefferle, Acting Chief, Area 1, M-NCPPC  
Mr. Matthew Folden, Area 1, M-NCPPC  
Mr. Casey Anderson, Chairman, Planning Board

Peter and Rebecca Umhofer  
5031 Alta Vista Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

SUBJECT: Special Exception Amendment S-862-C, French International School

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Umhofer:

Thank you for your email correspondence of April 1, 2019 regarding transportation concerns related to the Special Exception Amendment Application (S-862-C) for the French International School located at 9650 Rockville Pike. This Amendment application proposes to allow 700 students and 195 staff to relocate to this property from two existing French International School campuses elsewhere in the County.

Your email message focused on the proposed new access point onto Alta Vista Road at the rear of the subject site and the associated traffic impacts to this road and the surrounding roadway network that would result from this new access point. The Planning Board and Planning staff appreciates your correspondence on Special Exception Amendment Application S-862-C. Additionally, your letter will be placed in the staff report when it is published 10 days before the hearing.

Presently, this Special Exception Amendment Application has been indefinitely continued by the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) to allow the Applicant additional time to revise their submitted materials including the proposed traffic study. In addition, your letter has been forwarded to the Applicant's development team for their review.

Sincerely,  
Gwen Wright  
Director



April 1, 2019

Ms. Gwen Wright  
Planning Director  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Wright:

We are writing to express our serious concerns with the proposed French International School special exemption amendment and transportation plan (DAIC No. 8862C). We would also like to thank your staff - Kathleen Reilly, Mark Pfefferle and Matthew Folden - for taking the time to meet us on March 20, 2019. The meeting was helpful and informative.

As you know, when FIS purchased this property, they intended to have all school traffic enter and exit the school from Rockville Pike. Due to concerns about vehicle crossing three lanes of traffic and u turns, the County Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration (SHA) has indicated that plan will not work. The Planning Department has suggested to FIS that they could address the concerns of the SHA by cutting a driveway to Alta Vista Road and then funneling traffic to the intersection of Alta Vista and Rockville Pike.

I fear that this suggestion does not reflect a deep understanding of traffic surrounding the property at issue. Below are a number of traffic issues/concerns that should be considered in the final analysis and recommendation:

- 1) Southbound Rockville Pike is extremely congested during morning rush hour. The back-up typically begins somewhere north of downtown Bethesda, is very heavy near National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Military Medical Center and extends from the West Cedar intersection all the way to the Beltway. A pedestrian walking to the NIH metro from the Alta Vista intersection is often making faster progress than the cars. Adding traffic associated with a 700+ student school to this corridor does not make sense. There simply is no capacity on Rockville Pike to accommodate this traffic.
- 2) Routing traffic to Alta Vista Road will not create capacity on Rockville Pike and will prevent residents of Alta Vista from moving about freely. My understanding is that the Planning Department and Transportation Department are proposing that FIS traffic exit the school on Alta Vista and be required to turn left toward the Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection. Given the congestion described above, this will cause a major back-up on Alta Vista. Any traffic attempting to head south, will not be able to do so because there is nowhere to go. With cars parked on both sides of Alta Vista (note that the houses here have no garage or 1 car garage so eliminating street parking for residents is not an option), that intersection is not wide enough to allow some cars to proceed left, while others turn right, therefore, no matter how long the light is green, very few cars will get through during any green cycle. In addition, southbound traffic regularly blocks this intersection preventing cars that would turn left to head North (assuming

no one in front of them is waiting to proceed South) from proceeding through the intersection. The backup caused by adding significant traffic to this intersection will extend down Alta Vista and make it impossible for the Residents of Alta Vista to exit their driveways to proceed to work and school themselves.

- 3) Any adjustment to the light length at Alta Vista/ Rockville Pike will cause increased congestion on Rockville Pike. Allowing more cars to flow out of Alta Vista will necessarily require holding southbound cars at the light longer, causing increased backup to the Beltway and up Rockville Pike toward Grosvenor Lane. In the afternoon, of course, the northbound traffic will have to be held to allow school traffic to exit Alta Vista, contributing to already difficult congestion on Rockville Pike from Jones Bridge Road to the Beltway.
- 4) Requiring a left turn onto Alta Vista will not prevent cut through traffic and may exacerbate congestion at the Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection. Given the problems described above, drivers exiting the school will almost certainly ignore signage requiring that they turn left toward Rockville Pike. Alternatively, they will turn left then turn right on Wickett Street and loop back to Alta Vista Road and proceed Westbound into the neighborhood. The Alta Vista/Rockville Pike intersection does not have capacity to handle significantly increased traffic. It does not make sense to route all school traffic to that intersection.
- 5) Bus traffic and pollution. MCPS buses currently pass down Alta Vista 6 times per day. They are noisy and somewhat disruptive to residents of Alta Vista. Adding an additional 20-30 bus trips down a residential street would create a serious nuisance to residents of Alta Vista and expose them to unacceptable levels of diesel pollution. In addition, with cars parking on both sides of Alta Vista, I do not think that two buses could pass through the intersection of Alta Vista/Rockville pike as would be necessitated if the MCPS buses cross paths with the FIS buses (which would seem difficult if not impossible to prevent). Finally, the condition of Alta Vista Road is horrible. It is in severe need of re-pavement and adding additional bus traffic to this Road will only exacerbate this problem.
- 6) Adding transportation for an additional 700+ students will create choke points for the Maplewood/Alta Vista neighborhood. As noted above, requiring a left hand turn onto Alta Vista from the anticipated new FIS drive will not prevent the cars and buses delivering 700+ students from driving elsewhere through the neighborhood. There is already a significant back-up at the Beech/Old Georgetown and Pooks Hill/Rockville Pike intersections during rush hour. Adding a significant number of new trips in and/or out of the neighborhood during the same rush hours will inevitably exacerbate the existing back-ups making it difficult for residents to get to work and school.

I would like to be able to offer a solution to the challenges outlined above. However, I fear that there is not an attractive one. Perhaps the best approach would be for all students to arrive by bus from some less congested area. But, I fear even that will not be workable given the existing congestion and turn restrictions on Rockville Pike and the inappropriateness of routing dozens of private school buses through a residential neighborhood, turning our street into a de-facto bus depot.

**Balmer, Emily**

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**From:** Peter Umhofer <pumhofer@e2strategic.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 12:57 PM  
**To:** Pfefferle, Mark; Reilly, Kathy; Hisel-McCoy, Elza  
**Subject:** french school proposal

I am a resident in the maplewood-alta vista neighborhood of Bethesda (5031 alta vista road) and my home backs up to the faesb-french school proposal property (preliminary plan no. 12002079B). I hope you may be able to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the status of the transportation plan for the proposed school and what changes to the plan have the county and state highway administration requested?
- 2) Does one of changes include allowing a driveway from the proposed school on to alta vista road?
- 3) How often and under what circumstances does the county award an extension for the regulatory review period to an indefinite date?

Thank you for your assistance.