

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOCUST HILL CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION  
REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF A SIDEWALK AS PART OF PHASE 4 OF  
THE CEDAR LANE-ROCKVILLE PIKE BRAC RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

The members of the Locust Hill Citizens' Association, having reviewed and discussed the March 7, 2012 Interim Report and Recommendations of the Special Committee on Traffic and BRAC Impacts, hereby adopts the following statement of position opposing the inclusion of a sidewalk as part of Phase 4 of the State Highway Administration project to reconstruct the Cedar Lane-Rockville Pike intersection for which it will seek funding from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment.

1. When first explained to the Locust Hill community, Phase 4 did not involve a sidewalk. Plans provided to the Association by SHA, dated March 2009, do not indicate any sidewalk construction. On the contrary SHA first advised the Association of the sidewalk in a presentation to the Association by SHA staff in the fall of 2011.
2. According to SHA staff, the sidewalk, which would extend along an additional lane on the east side of Rockville Pike from Elmhirst Drive to Broad Brook Road, would need to comply with Americans with Disability Act requirements because it would be built with federal funds. According to SHA, these requirements mandate a five-foot minimum sidewalk width and a potential buffer between the sidewalk and the street.
3. Because construction of the Phase 4 auxiliary and transition lanes would generally be the width of the median separating Rockville Pike from its service roadway, SHA has advised that if the sidewalk is built, the service roadway generally would have to be displaced by an equivalent distance onto the front lawns of service-roadway residents. The depth of construction behind a new retaining wall also would have to be increased along the grade-separated section of Rockville Pike north of Locust Hill Road. In addition, members of the community have expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety along the elevated portion of the sidewalk in which pedestrians must travel between Rockville Pike and a 42-inch-high collision barrier at the point at which the lanes converge from four-to-three just as Rockville Pike curves leftward.
4. We have been advised that the addition of the sidewalk was based not on a community request, but on Maryland Transportation Code, Section 8-630, which requires sidewalks to be installed at the time of reconstruction of urban highways. An exception is provided if "the local government indicates that there is no need for sidewalks" or if SHA determines "that the cost or impacts of constructing sidewalks would be too great in relation to the need for them or their probable use."
5. Because of the geography of the Locust Hill community—surrounded by the Beltway on the north and east—both the costs and potential benefits of

constructing an east-side sidewalk as part of Phase 4 are contained within the Locust Hill community.

6. As a community association recognized by the Montgomery County Planning Board, and after consideration of the issues raised by the sidewalk, the Locust Hill Citizens' Association concludes that, on balance, the costs and risks of building the sidewalk outweigh any potential benefits, and thus the association formally recommends that the east-side sidewalk not be included in any Phase 4 construction.
7. The Association instead urges that relevant agencies improve access by Locust Hill residents living at or above Broad Brook Lane to the sidewalk on the west side of Rockville Pike by: (1) installing a cross-walk signal on the south side of the already signalized intersection of Bellevue Drive and Rockville Pike; and (2) providing maintenance and other upgrades to the west-side sidewalk to improve its effective width and utility.
8. The Association's President is hereby directed to make this resolution know to relevant Montgomery County officials and the State Highway Administration.

Adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Association on March 12, 2012.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Seligman      Vice President