

The University Corridor **is not a fit for the people who live in the area.**

If I were a young professional with a hipster lifestyle, I would find the vision of 15-minute living very attractive. I could picture myself walking to cafes and shops, and working from home on my computer.

But the corridor area is not filled with young hipsters. There are many blue-collar workers here. There are many families with children here. People chose the local community because it suits them. You are trying to impose a lifestyle on us that we do not need or want.

The families here rely on cars to get to work. Many area residents have service trucks (plumbers, HVAC, handyman, etc.), and for them mass transit cannot possibly enable them to get to work.

Residents rely on cars to take children to the doctor. They rely on cars to get food. Costco shoppers don't walk home with their groceries.

I am an avid biker and an avid walker, as are many others in the corridor area. But there are very few people who live within bicycle commuting distance to work.

For recreation purposes, the current configuration is more than adequate. The Sligo Creek path is easily reached and connects to other area bike routes. When I take a walk, it is easy for me to avoid traffic. But when traffic from University Boulevard spills over into side streets—as this plan will certainly make happen-- it will make biking more difficult and dangerous.

One fact about the corridor area is that the largest high school in the state, Blair, is located at a busy intersection, Four Corners. Perhaps it would be helpful to build a pedestrian passageway under the intersection or a pedestrian bridge over it.

Meanwhile, making the intersection difficult for cars to navigate is not a good approach. It would adversely affect the lives of the many staff at Blair who commute from miles away. Many students, too, come from different parts of the county, and their commutes would take longer. My guess is that these constituents who do not reside in our area have not been informed about the plan. Before you implement the traffic proposals, you owe it to students and staff at Blair to reach out to them and allow them to react to how this would affect their commutes.

This community is notably child-friendly, so that there are many children and teenagers who enjoy freedom and safety. Families here are not as transient as in other neighborhoods in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. We have many friends who have lived here since we moved into the neighborhood, forty years ago. Some of their grown children now live here, with children of their own.

We have chosen to live a suburban lifestyle. The planners have a different vision. Their approach may be ideal for a young, single, urban white-collar hipster, but that is not who we are. If you were to visit the local Costco, you would see our much more diverse population that does not work from home or on K Street. We shop there for our families, and the only practical way to bring home our groceries is with our cars.

My main point is to urge you to recognize diversity in Montgomery County, rather than try to impose a single lifestyle everywhere in this region. Not everyone wants the same lifestyle. I worry that in pursuit of some abstract ideals you will adversely affect our distinctive and successful community.

Please listen to the people who live here. Before you impose a plan based on some central vision, spend time getting to know us. Instead of basing your plan for our community on a commitment to conceptual theory, start by understanding the characteristics, needs, and preferences of the people who will actually be affected.

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