

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: September 3, 2021

TO: Gwen Wright, Planning Director

VIA: Carrie Sanders, Chief, Mid-County Planning Division *CS*

FROM: Jessica McVary, Supervisor, Mid-County Planning Division *JM*
Troy Leftwich, Planner Coordinator, Mid-County Planning Division *TL*

SUBJECT: Comments on Right-of-Way Abandonment 770 - Kensington Boulevard

The Montgomery County Planning Department received the amended application on July 13, 2021, requesting review of a petition for the abandonment of a portion of Kensington Boulevard. Planning staff have reviewed the petition for abandonment and determined that the Department supports the abandonment of this right-of-way as amended.

The section of Kensington Boulevard that is the subject of this abandonment petition is located in the 2012 *Wheaton Central Business District and Vicinity Sector Plan*. The Sector Plan recommends retaining this right-of-way and ultimately establishing a vehicular connection between the current terminus of Kensington Boulevard and Veirs Mill Road. Page 62 of the Sector Plan specifically states: "retain the right-of-way for the unbuilt portion of Kensington Boulevard between East Avenue and Veirs Mill Road. Use of the right-of-way should be determined during development review for any redevelopment of the adjacent Lindsay Ford property. The right-of-way may be used for a bicycle or pedestrian connection if it is determined that a street is not needed or feasible at this location."

Planning staff has determined a vehicular connection to Veirs Mill Road may not be feasible due to existing easements with utilities and existing grade. Planning staff acknowledge the collaboration with the adjacent property owners to establish a pedestrian/bicycle connection. This connection will include a concrete stairway and bicycle runnels and will be provided via the anticipated Wheaton Gateway development application. Planning staff is committed to working with the Wheaton Gateway applicant to enhance this connection and ensure safe access through the abandonment area.

Planning staff appreciate the opportunity to review this petition. Please do not hesitate to contact Jessica McVary (301.495.4723 or jessica.mcvary@montgomeryplanning.org), if you have any questions or require additional information.

ACCEPTED & APPROVED BY:



Gwen Wright, Planning Director

September 3, 2021

Date Approved