AB-777 Sleaford Road

Bethesda/Chevy Chase Policy Area













Figure 1: 4201 East-West Highway (Prior to Purple Line Construction Activities)



Figure 2: 4201 East-West Highway and Subject Abandonment



March 10, 2021

Christopher Conklin Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation 101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Abandonment Request for 8,244 Square Feet of Right-of-Way Sleaford Road Between East West Highway and the Georgetown Branch Trail/Purple Line

Dear Director Conklin:

Nova East West, LLC (Nova Ventures), is the contract purchaser of a property located at 4201 East West Highway. A single-family detached house is located on the property, which is currently being leased to a family that resides in the home as their primary residence. The home makes for a great rental option for families with children, as it provides an affordable option for families to live within walking distance to Bethesda Elementary School, Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC) High School, and the employment options, retail amenities, and recreational activities of downtown Bethesda. At the conclusion of the current lease term, Nova Ventures will consider the potential redevelopment of the property to allow for missing middle sized detached housing, or it may continue leasing the existing home to families for the foreseeable future.

The existing home was constructed in 1949, and since that time the use of the property has included a small area of land, measuring 8,244 square feet, that is technically part of the Sleaford Road right-of-way (this land area is shown on Exhibit A). This area, which we are hereby requesting for an abandonment, includes the current home's driveway and curb cut along East West Highway, a gravel parking and turnaround area for the residents' vehicles, and a large area of the property's functional backyard, which is located in very close proximity to a children's playhouse set.

Prior to the commencement of construction on the Purple Line light rail project, the Sleaford Road right-of-way between East West Highway and the Georgetown Branch Trail was an unused paper street that was heavily wooded aside from the small area identified in this request. With the construction of the Purple Line, the balance of the Sleaford right-of-way has now been clear-cut and is currently being used as a construction staging area for materials and equipment necessary for the light rail project. At the Purple Line's completion, the Sleaford Road right-of-way will provide a pedestrian trail connection and underpass under the rail tracks that will allow for pedestrian access to the Georgetown Branch Trail from East West Highway. The Purple Line construction plans delineates the 8,244 square foot area requested for abandonment as <u>outside</u> the Purple Line's Limits of Disturbance (See Purple Line Light Rail Civil Design Sheet 33 on <u>Exhibit B</u>). The construction plans for the Purple Line consider this area as functionally part of 4201 East





West Highway. Therefore, no portion of the area requested for abandonment is necessary for the current or future operations of the Purple Line.

We are requesting the abandonment of the 8,244 square foot area of the Sleaford Road right-of-way, pursuant to Section 49-63(c) of the Montgomery County Code, as (1) no longer necessary for present public use or anticipated future use for the foreseeable future and (2) necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of nearby residents:

- The owners of 4201 East West Highway have historically maintained the area of land requested for abandonment, which provides evidence that this area is not currently, nor has previously been, in the public use.
- The engineering and construction plans for the Purple Line shows that all current and future features of the light rail project, including the future 12-foot wide pedestrian pathway and underpass, are to be located <u>outside</u> of the area requested for abandonment. Therefore, the area requested for abandonment is not necessary for present public use or anticipated future public use.
- The area requested for abandonment has been historically used, and is necessary for future use, by the residents of 4201 East West Highway to allow for adequate vehicular ingress and egress to East West Highway. This area also allows for the turnaround of vehicles on the property to avoid the dangerous condition of having to back vehicles into oncoming traffic on East West Highway. Therefore, the requested land area is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of 4201 East West Highway.
- The abandonment of the requested land area will allow for an adequate buffer and screening area, allowing for the placement of privacy landscaping and fencing between the future pedestrian trail and underpass and the home's backyard where resident children frequently play. Without such screening, a pedestrian using the future pathway may mistake the backyard children's play area as part of the public domain. Therefore, the requested land area is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of 4201 East West Highway.
- The inclusion of this 8,244 square foot land area into the property may also allow for the potential future redevelopment and redesign of the property when the aging home that is located on the property today reaches the end of its useful life. A future redevelopment of the property could allow for two or three newly built, midsized detached homes that are designed to orient better to the Purple Line and future pedestrian public pathway, improving the safety and welfare of any future residents. Any future redevelopment of the property will be reviewed and approved by the Montgomery County Planning Department or Planning Board through a preliminary plan of subdivision.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the 8,244 square foot area of Sleaford Road as shown on Exhibit A be abandoned and subsequently incorporated into 4201 East West Highway (Lot 5, Block D, of Chevy Chase Section 4-D).





In connection with this request, please find the following enclosed:

- \$2,500.00 filing fee
- Abandonment Plan identifying the area requested for abandonment (Exhibit A)
- Purple Line Light Rail Civil Design Sheet 33 showing the 4201 East West Highway home and driveway in relation to the future Purple Line alignment and pedestrian trail/underpass (<u>Exhibit B</u>)
- Photographs of Existing Conditions
- 1947 Record Plat, Chevy Chase Section 4-D (Plat No. 2006)

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• Authorization Letter from Landowner

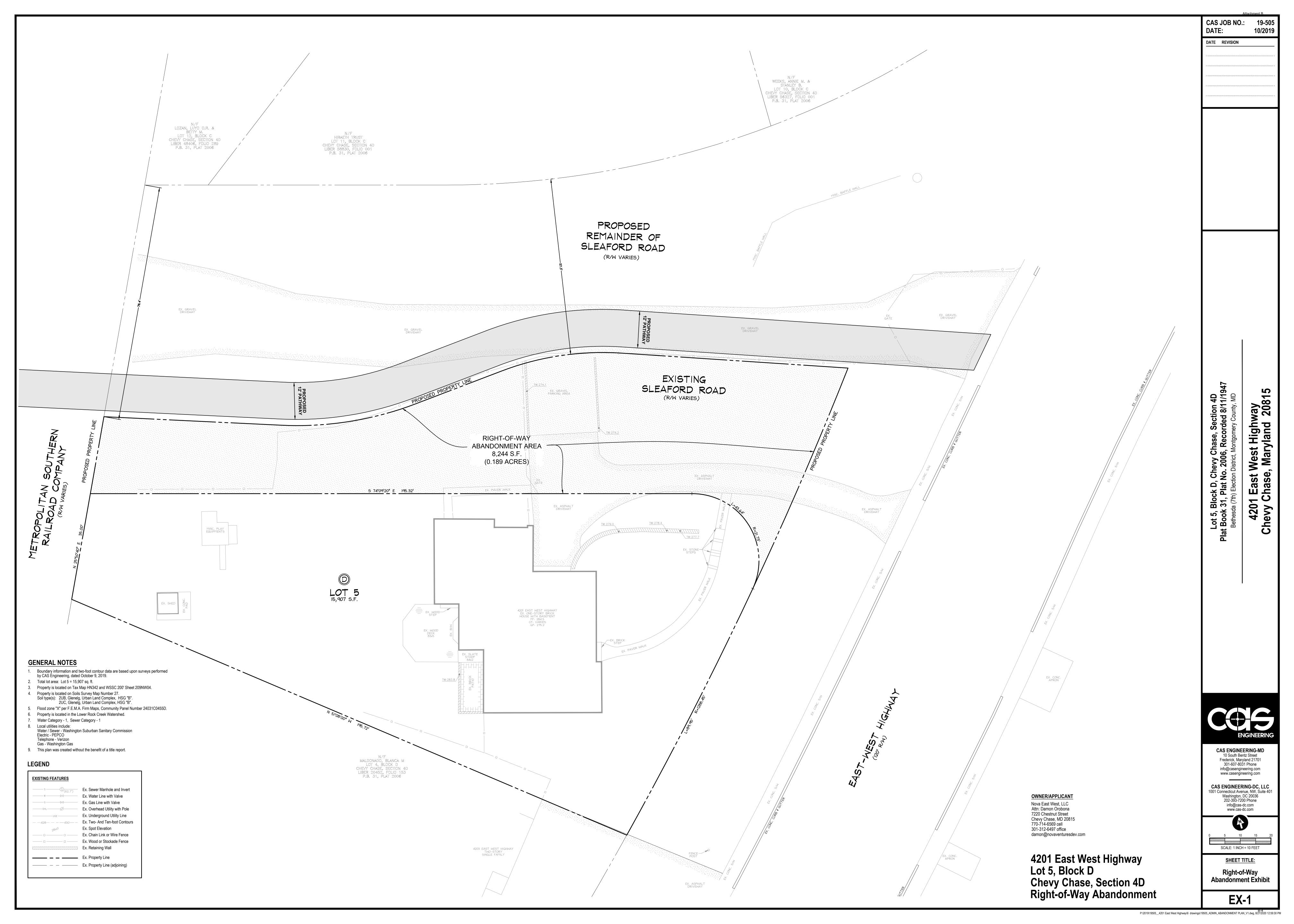
Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.

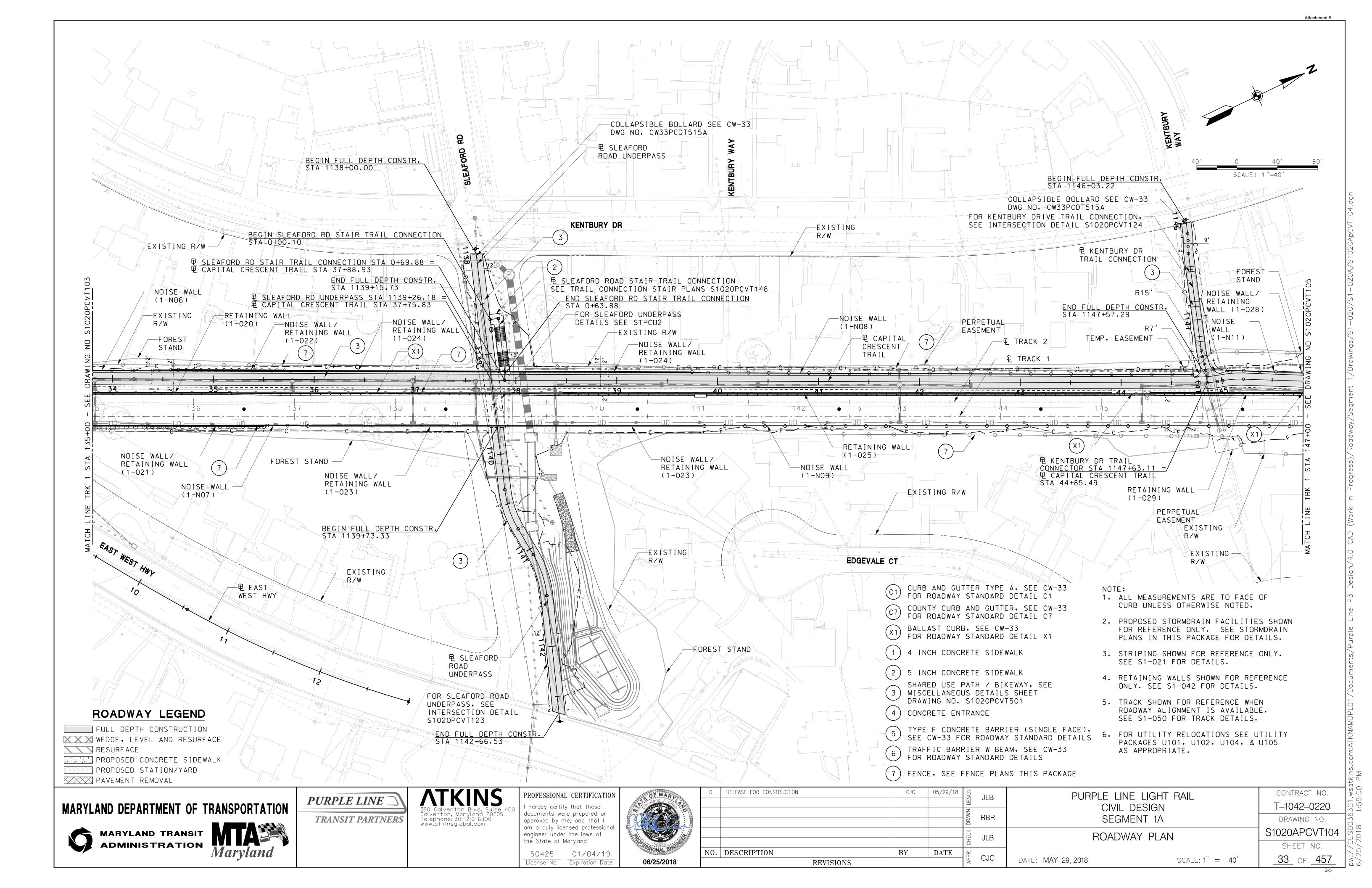
Sincerely,

Damon Orobona

cc: Eric Willis, Esquire

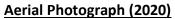






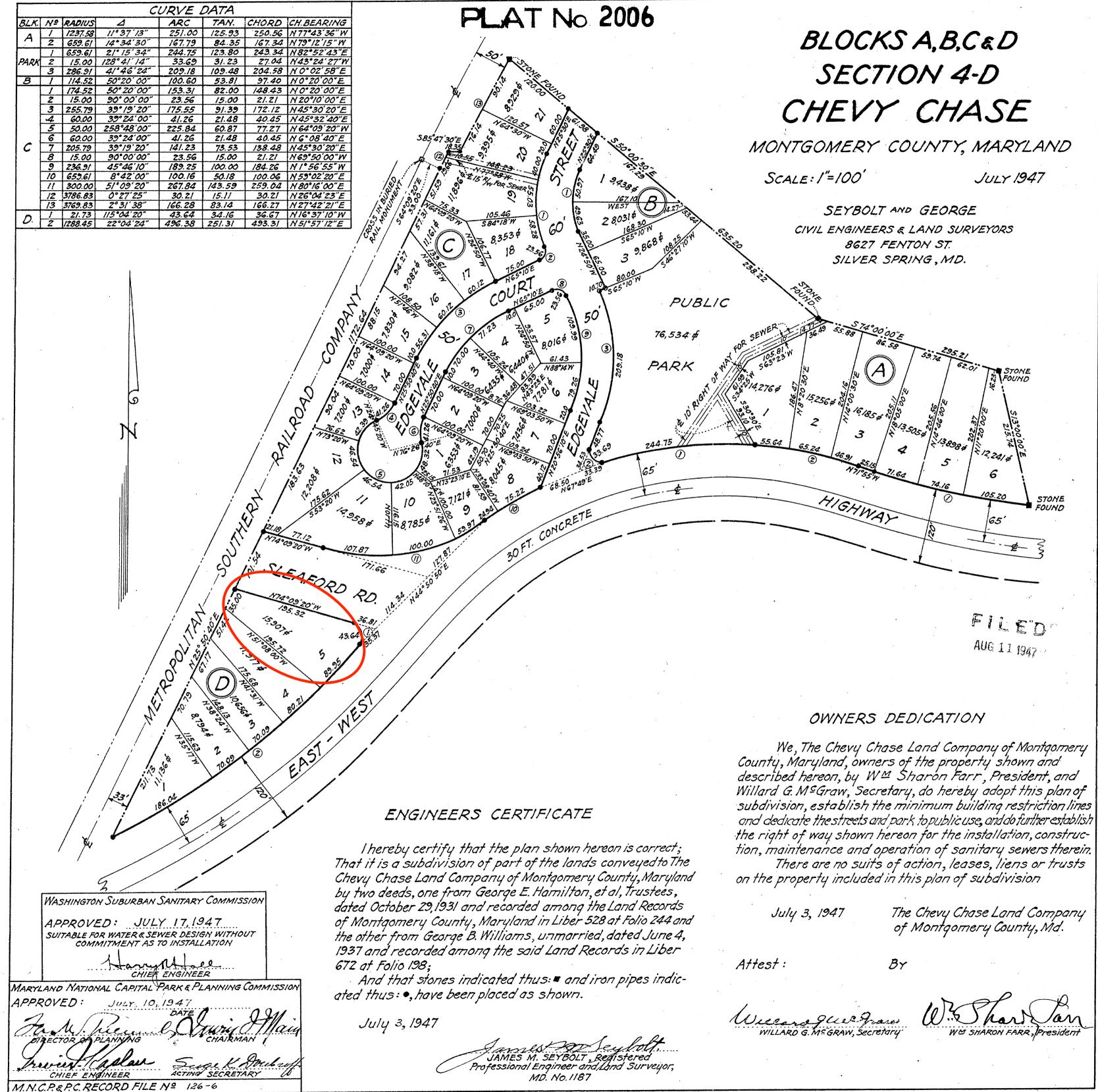
Aerial Photograph (2017)











August 19, 2020

To whom it may concern:

We, Cynthia Weiss and Siva Anantham, are the owners of a property located at 4201 East West Highway located in Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815, and further identified as:

- Lot 5, Block D, Chevy Chase Section 4D
- Tax Account No. 00419226

This letter hereby authorizes Nova East West, LLC, and/or Damon Orobona, as an Authorized Signatory to sign and file any and all application documents and permits on behalf of the owners of the property referenced above in connection with the property, including but not limited to right-of-way abandonment, NRI/FSD, and preliminary plan applications.

This authorization includes preparing the applications and all related materials needed to support any relevant applications and filing and processing the applications and all supporting materials with the applicable governmental bodies.

Please feel free to contact us if there are any further questions regarding this authorization. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Weiss

4314 Chestnut Street

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

(M)

Siva Anantham

4314 Chestnut Street

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

NOVA EAST WEST LLC

7220 CHESTNUT STREET
CHEVY CHASE MD 20815

3/3/2021

Date
65-7198/2550

3/3/2021

Date
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Order of Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation \$ 2,500.00

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For Abandonment Application Fee

Amon Order of Montgomery Application Fee

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Harland Clarles

Mencarini, Katherine

From: Willis, Eric < Eric. Willis@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 3:24 PM

To: Torma, Rebecca; Terry, Mark; Panjshiri, Atiq; Erme, Marc; LaBaw, Marie; Mencarini, Katherine; Greene,

Crystal:(PEPCO); Stanbury-Woolery, Caville; Washington Gas Light; kolyan.l.marcus@verizon.com;

bhorn@rkk.com; Steven Kolarz; kevin.oberheim@purplelinemd.com

Cc: Salazar, Victor; Smith, Marcus L:(PHI)

Subject: AB 777 - Sleaford Road

Attachments: 2021.03.10 Abandonment Request - Sleaford Drive Chevy Chase.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

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

All,

Please be advised that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation has received a request from Nova Ventures, LLC to abandon an 8,244 Square foot portion of the Sleaford Road Right of Way located between the Georgetown Branch trail/ future Purple Line and East West Highway in Chevy Chase. Within this section of the Sleaford Road right of way, the Maryland Transit Administration is planning to build a pedestrian connection from East West Highway and the future Purple Line as part of its Purple Line project. The area being sought for abandonment is located along the western limits of the MTA's planned pedestrian connection and the eastern property line of the property located at 4201 East West Highway.

The applicant's letter to the DOT Director requesting the subject abandonment is attached hereto.

Please review and submit any comments you may have concerning the subject abandonment request to me (contact information below) by **September 9, 2021**.

A virtual public hearing on the request is being scheduled for September 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Thank you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Eric Willis

Chief, Property Acquisition Section Montgomery County Department of Transportation 100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor Gaithersburg, MD 20878 240-777-7255



For COVID-19 Information and resources, visit: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COVID19

