

Carderock Springs Citizens Association

Resolution in Support of Beltway Noise and Air Pollution Mitigation

WHEREAS, the Carderock Springs Citizens Association (“CSCA”) is committed to preserving the unique nature of the Carderock Springs community and protecting the interests of Carderock Springs residents (“CSES”); and

WHEREAS, the Carderock Springs community has been designated a National Historic District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Carderock Springs neighborhood is bisected by Interstate 495 (the “Beltway”) with direct roadway frontage on both sides of the highway which results in traffic noise emanating from the Beltway being audible throughout the neighborhood at significant volume; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have demonstrated that prolonged exposure to traffic noise of at least 69 decibels has numerous harmful cognitive and health impacts, especially on children, including impaired cognition, attention-span, reading comprehension, speech intelligibility, memory, learning, and problem-solving, as well as increased frustration; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Highway Authority last measured Beltway noise in Carderock Springs in 2001 as part of a noise impact study that recorded sustained noise levels in the vicinity of Carderock Springs Elementary School (“CSES”) at 79 decibels, with even higher levels recorded at other points along the Beltway; and

WHEREAS, traffic volume on the Beltway has increased in the sixteen years since the 2001 Noise Impact Study such that noise levels at many points along Carderock Springs’ Beltway frontage now likely exceeds 80 decibels; and

WHEREAS, many Carderock homes lie within 500 feet of the Beltway, as well as CSES property including a playground and athletic fields where children play during recess and sporting events; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown that downwind air pollutant concentrations within approximately 500 feet of a highway can be reduced by up to 60% through the combined use of vegetation and roadside barriers; and


WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) recommends in its “Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Pollution Exposure at Schools” using a solid roadside barrier and vegetation along highways to block traffic-related pollutants from degrading air quality near schools; and

WHEREAS, in situations where school authorities do not have jurisdiction or ownership over the immediate roadside environment, the EPA suggests pursuing the use of roadside barriers with relevant governmental authorities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CSCA calls upon the relevant agencies of the State of Maryland and Montgomery County, including the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland State Highway Administration, and the Maryland Department of Environmental Protection, to take the following action to mitigate the Beltway noise and air pollution harming the residents of Carderock Springs:

- Conduct a new noise impact study to measure the current level of Beltway noise in the vicinity of Carderock Springs,
- Erect a solid noise barrier along both sides of the Beltway in the vicinity of Carderock Springs,
- Replant the area between the Beltway and Carderock Springs that was cleared of invasive plant species during the summer of 2016, and
- Allocate all necessary funding to execute the foregoing.

HEREBY APPROVED.



John Orrick
President
Carderock Springs Citizens Association

7/17/17
Date

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