



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

April 11, 2014

Ms. Melinda Peters
Administrator
Maryland State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Administrator Peters,

As Chair of the Montgomery County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee, as well as the District 1 representative, I am writing today in regards to a troubling situation along Bradley Boulevard (MD-191) in the Bethesda area of Montgomery County. This road, which is maintained by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and serves as a primary commuter and transit route through my district, has been the site of an ongoing Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) restoration project. This project has continued to impact traffic and the quality of life for those living along Bradley Boulevard for nearly a year.

I understand that the WSSC is working to replace a water main along Bradley Boulevard and such work is time consuming and must be done with precision and care. I also understand that our region suffered through an unusually brutal winter, which impacted the amount of work that could take place along Bradley Boulevard. That being said, dozens of residents, including the President of the Bradley Boulevard Citizens Association, have contacted my office with their concerns over the protracted length of the project and ongoing state of disrepair along Bradley Boulevard.

As you can imagine, residents of this area are frustrated with the pace of the utility work that is taking place. Over the past year, multiple times during the week, including during rush hour, two or more lanes of Bradley Boulevard are closed to traffic. This creates significant delays that impact residents, as well as commuters, and results in spillover traffic that negatively impacts the surrounding roads and neighborhood streets.

Residents also report that construction often takes place throughout the night. I understand that the permit issued by your agency to the WSSC for this project allows work from 9:00 pm – 5:00 am, but I ask that you reconsider this policy on all construction projects going forward. Working during such hours is detrimental to the quality of life of residents and is an undue burden to those who live along the areas of construction.

I also share in the resident's concern regarding the eventual resurfacing of Bradley Boulevard following the completion of the WSSC's work. If the resurfacing effort along other roads where the WSSC has worked is any indication of their quality of work, it leaves much to be desired. I have spoken to the General Manager and Commissioners of the WSSC multiple times asking that they ensure that all roads are

resurfaced and restored to optimal condition following work. I encourage you to hold the agency to the highest standard possible.

I ask that going forward, your agency examine the permitting process for work along roads such as Bradley Boulevard to ensure that mistakes, like those that have occurred along this route, do not happen again. To ask that residents suffer through nearly a year of living in an active construction site is to ask too much.

Thank you for your attention to this ongoing issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.B." followed by a stylized surname.

Roger Berliner,
Councilmember
District 1

CC: Christopher Bishop, MSHA
Douglas Bonner, Bradley Boulevard Citizens Assoc.
Barbara Solberg, MSHA