



**CARDEROCK SPRINGS**  
National Register of Historic Places

May 11, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Kopp, Treasurer  
Board of Public Works  
80 Calvert Street, Room 117  
Annapolis, MD 21404

The Honorable Peter Franchot, Comptroller  
Board of Public Works  
80 Calvert Street, Room 117  
Annapolis, MD 21404

Dear Treasurer Kopp and Comptroller Franchot,

I am writing you on a behalf of the Carderock Springs community. Carderock Springs has been designated a National Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It includes the Carderock Springs Elementary School (CSES) that is located directly adjacent to the Interstate 495 right-of-way (ROW). The Carderock Springs and South Carderock neighborhoods are bisected by Interstate 495 (the "Beltway") with direct roadway frontage on both sides of the highway, and thus are directly affected by the current traffic noise and air pollution emanating from the Beltway.

Our community submitted I-495 & I-270 Scoping comments to SHA on April 30, 2018 and comments on SHA Transportation Alternatives on October 1, 2018. In these comments we urged SHA to eliminate the alternatives that would add 2 lanes in each direction due to the significant increase of the volume and proximity of the traffic to sensitive receptors in our community, including hundreds of children that live and go to school here. Several scientific studies demonstrated that exposure to a highway adversely effects children's lung development. In fact, some states, including California, have for this reason banned building schools within 500 feet of highways. Furthermore, the historic houses in our community were not built to protect its families from the extreme noise and air pollution we are currently facing.

We strongly believe that any expansion plans should consider local conditions and its design should be adjusted to minimize the negative environmental impact. We are concerned that our comments were not heard as the current selection of seven SHA alternatives include the addition of two lanes in each direction of I-495, options that we recognized as significantly harmful to our community. Furthermore, we were shocked to learn in the SHA public workshop on April 13<sup>th</sup> that in addition to the Beltway expansion exceeding ROW, which based on the interactive map published on the SHA website, would result in the taking of property from several Carderock homes (contrary to the original Governor Hogan's promise not to do that), SHA plans to add another (elevated) ramp to connect Managed Lanes with River Road. This addition would significantly expand the area of noise and air pollution to places not previously impacted by the Beltway.

As members of the Maryland Board of Public Works, you will soon vote on whether to allow the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to move forward on a plan to expand I-495 and I-270 by adding two to four toll lanes to each of these highways. Our community urges you to oppose this proposal as it fails to protect the best interests of Maryland's taxpayers, communities and the environment.

We strongly believe that it is premature to approve this project before thorough traffic and fiscal analyses as well as an environmental impact statement have been conducted.

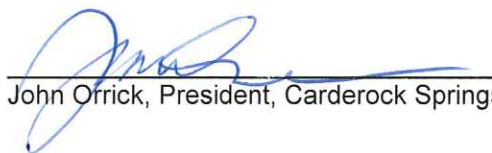
Carderock Springs Citizens' Association  
P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD 20818-0237

[www.carderocksprings.net](http://www.carderocksprings.net)

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Decades of research on transportation projects show that simply widening highways is not a real solution to congestion. Experience shows that expanding highways increases driving by encouraging people to abandon carpooling and public transit. It also encourages more people to get on the road during rush hour rather than driving during non-rush hour periods.

We urge you to oppose the current MDOT plan to expand I-495 and I-270 plan in order to improve the planning process and increase its transparency and keep MDOT accountable for designing the best solution possible.



John Orrick, President, Carderock Springs Citizens' Association

cc:

Jack R. Smith, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools  
Marc Korman, Delegate, District 16  
Sara Love, Delegate, District 16  
Susan Lee, Senator, District 16  
Andrew Friedson, Councilmember, Montgomery County

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