



**CARDEROCK SPRINGS**  
National Register of Historic Places

January 7, 2020

The Honorable Peter Franchot, Comptroller  
The Honorable Nancy Kopp, Treasurer  
80 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, MD 21404

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD, 21401-1925

Dear Treasurer Kopp, Comptroller Franchot and Governor Hogan,

I write on behalf of the Carderock Springs community, an historic neighborhood located in Montgomery County Maryland whose children and community will be significantly impacted by the planned Beltway Expansion project. The Carderock Springs and Carderock Springs South neighborhoods are bisected by the span of Interstate 495 (the "Beltway") that is within the Beltway Expansion study area. Our community is directly adjacent on both sides of the highway to the State Highway Administration ("SHA") right-of-way ("ROW").

The Carderock Springs Citizens Association ("CSCA") is committed to preserving the unique nature of the Carderock Springs community and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the 569 households (with approximately 1,000 adults and 761 children). Our community also includes Carderock Springs Elementary School with about 400 children and its athletic fields that are directly adjacent to the ROW. We are very concerned about the proposed Beltway expansion, specifically the potential air and noise pollution that it will bring to our community, especially children.

Carderock Springs has been designated a National Historic District, that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, making impacts on our community even more unique (and adverse) and requiring special consideration, a greater level of analysis, and limitations on decision-making under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

On April 30, 2018 and October 1, 2018, we submitted our community comments urging SHA to stay within ROW during its planned Beltway expansion and protect our vulnerable community and school with a long-promised noise & air pollution solid barrier. Unfortunately, based on the interactive map published on the SHA website, the currently planned Beltway expansion would exceed ROW and result in the taking of property from several Carderock homes (contrary to original Governor Hogan's promise not to do that) and adding another (elevated) ramp to connect Managed Lanes with River Road. On May 11, 2019 we wrote to Comptroller Franchot and Treasurer Kopp again expressing concern over the environmental impacts of the Beltway expansion and the taking of private property from Carderock residents.

On January 3, 2020 County Executive Elrich supported a revised plan for I-495 and I-270 in his statement describing that this project "will be built within existing boundaries." Furthermore, Councilmember Hucker's Facebook post on January 4, 2020 states that the current plan "avoids Beltway widening and the taking of homes and dozens of acres of Rock Creek, Sligo Creek, and Northwest Branch Parks, improves 270, 495 and the Legion Bridge within the rights-of-way".

Unfortunately, we didn't see the commitment of SHA to limit expansion to stay with the current ROW on the current BPW Action Agenda (see enclosed). We therefore question whether this is a real commitment. And on this point, our understanding is that private property acquisitions are not prohibited, but instead, are only delayed until a final design is approved. This is a far cry from what is necessary here, which is protecting our properties and limiting noise and air quality impacts to Carderock's residents and school children.

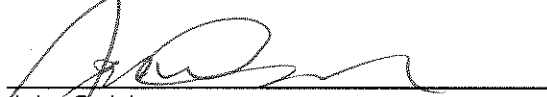
Carderock Springs Citizens' Association  
P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD 20818-0237

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

**We strongly urge you not to vote to approve or advance a project that will extend outside of the existing ROW and which does not include funding for construction of noise and pollution barriers. This is crucially important to health and well-being of residents in our community.**

Finally, we would like to invite you all to come to our community to see the impact of the previous Beltway expansion, learn about our communications with SHA, discuss the potential impact of the current plan, and explore the types of mitigation that would be needed (such as long-promised sound walls) if the Beltway Expansion Plan goes forward.

Sincerely,



John Orrick  
President, Carderock Springs Citizens Association

cc: Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive  
Sidney Katz, President, Montgomery County Council  
Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Council Member  
Tom Hucker, Montgomery County Council Member  
Marc Korman, Delegate, District 16  
Sara Love, Delegate, District 16  
Susan Lee, Senator, District 16  
Jack R. Smith, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools