

From: **Fawn Baranko** <fawnbaranko@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 14, 2014 at 8:07 AM

Subject: Washingtonian Woods Noise Barrier

To: **rkiegel@mta.maryland.gov**

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Dear Mr Kiegel,

I met you August 4th at Lisa Cline's house, and also attended the first hour of the meeting at the Washingtonian Woods Clubhouse September 30th. After these informative sessions, I and many others copied on this message are greatly concerned about the negative impact to quality of life and home values the residents of Washingtonian Woods will experience with expansion of Great Seneca Highway for the Cities Corridor Transitway (CCT). This proposed roadway will bring a year of intensely disruptive construction and result in a 6-lane highway that will be a significant 48 feet closer to residences. The expected increase in noise pollution will create a highly unfavorable quality of life for residents. Please provide responses to the following questions:

**1. What are the existing noise levels [dB(A)] for Washingtonian Woods? What are the future build and future no-build noise level [dB(A)] predictions for the design year?** We are already aware from your report given during the September 30th meeting that an environmental impact analysis indicated our neighborhood will experience a moderate level of impact, thereby qualifying those living along Great Seneca Highway for noise mitigation measures. Please supply the specific data in dB(A).

**2. When will conceptual design development include noise wall systems, rather than berms?** At the meeting at Mrs. Cline's house, and as reported in the Town Courier, you said the 30 percent design phase would be completed by April, and that no changes would be made after that point. It is therefore imperative that a wall noise barrier be included in the plan before it is 30 percent completed and before any construction bids are solicited. It is neither acceptable nor necessary to wait for the next phase of development to include a noise wall system. In fact, the longer inclusion is delayed the less chance our neighborhood stands to receive desired noise mitigation. While I do not claim to fully understand the politics and process of transportation and road development, it seems dishonest to present any plan that wouldn't include a noise wall system knowing it could and should have. This is not an issue that should be passed to a later phase, thereby becoming someone else's problem, or be included at a point that makes it fiscally impossible.

**3. When will a Site Constraint Assessment (SCA) be conducted to determine if additional engineered elements would be required to erect a typical noise wall system?** At the meeting at Mrs. Cline's house, and as reported in the Town Courier, you stated once the noise situation was

determined "the question of adding a sound wall on top of the concrete retaining wall to mitigate noise will be addressed."

**4. What is the date of public knowledge and location approval for this project?** The State Highway Administration (SHA) Sound Barrier Policy states noise abatement for new development occurring after the date of public knowledge is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction, private developers, and/or individual property owners. I do not see this project listed on the SHA Type I Sound Barrier Program list, but believe it would qualify.

**5. How can Washingtonian Woods have walled noise barriers erected before construction begins?** According to the most recent Federal Highway Administration Construction Noise Handbook, as early as possible in the design development process noise walls can be considered for use as a noise shield. There are numerous examples of the State of Maryland providing this. Noise barriers would provide immeasurable relief to residents who will experience nearly a year of intense, disruptive noise during construction.

I appreciate your time responding to these concerns.

Sincerely,  
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