



NRCA, P.O. Box 3242, Alexandria, VA 22302

February 2, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Robert Garbacz
Division Chief
Dept. of Transportation and Environmental Services
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Garbacz:

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA) regarding several roadway efforts, including Monticello Boulevard, W Braddock Road and Cameron Mills Road.

MONTICELLO BOULEVARD

As you are aware, I recently came across by chance a City web page outlining changes to Monticello Boulevard, which were approved last fall. Thanks to you and your staff, we have learned that changes were proposed by City staff under Complete Streets authority and adopted in October 2018 by a vote of the Traffic and Parking Board (TPB), although regrettably without the awareness of - or notification to - NRCA or North Ridge residents. We are grateful to have been able to work with your office to try and address this oversight in recent weeks, albeit after the fact. We have some important feedback to share regarding the proposed changes:

- NRCA Board and resident reaction thus far to the addition of pedestrian crosswalks along Monticello is overwhelmingly supportive.
- While no one questions that speeding and cut-through traffic are real and persistent issues on North Ridge streets, the online rendering indicates that up to three speed cushions will be added in a relatively small stretch between Russell Road and George Mason Place. For clarity, we would appreciate knowing how City staff reached a determination that three speed cushions are necessary to achieve traffic calming, and whether some formula is being applied. We also request a copy of the City's speed study for NRCA records.
- If the City has not already done so, we urge you to immediately consult with Firehouse 203 on the planned changes and confirm AFD's ability to deliver effective public safety and emergency medical services. As you may know, 203 is currently using Monticello for access to and egress from its temporary building space. Firehouse leaders told our NRCA Board contact in December 2019 that they were not aware of the changes being made.
- NRCA has made a concerted effort to get the word out to residents and collect feedback. We have heard about a City notice from a resident on Cameron Mills, which sounds like



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an encouraging step. We would appreciate receiving such notices in order to help foster improved communication and awareness regarding the City's efforts, which we can amplify. We hope that residents most impacted by the changes to Monticello are given proper notice as required by the City's Complete Streets policy, including those on Argyle, George Mason Place, Pierpont and Underhill. Please note: When NRCA took up this issue in 2018, resident input was divided, and the civic association did not take a position due to the lack of a clear consensus.

- NRCA made contact with the residents on Underhill Place who brought Monticello safety concerns to the attention of the City and the civic association in early 2018. These households have indicated that they are highly supportive of the approved changes.

SCROGGINS LANE/W BRADDOCK ROAD

NRCA urges the City to move ahead with pedestrian safety/crosswalk options and the exploration of a four-way stop to mitigate speeding and better enable neighbors along Scroggins Road/Valley/Page/Crest to access W Braddock during peak traffic periods, along with the traffic study that the City has committed to for Spring 2020. Per the Central Alexandria Traffic Study, we would like to have Streetlight data for analysis. We urge close community engagement on the scope of this effort.

CAMERON MILLS ROAD

The City's repaving schedule appears to place Cameron Mills Road between Woodland Terrace and Allison Street on the agenda for a Complete Streets review. We have shared the City's survey with residents and request that NRCA be consulted on any street changes being contemplated by City staff prior to the issuance of any proposals or submissions to the Traffic and Parking Board, so that community input and collaboration can be adequately reflected in results.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or follow-up.

Regards,

Kay Stimson

Kay Stimson,
NRCA President

cc: Mr. Yon Lambert, Director, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
Mr. William Schuyler, Chair, Traffic & Parking Board
Ms. Alex Carroll, Complete Streets Coordinator