



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

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October 19, 2019

*SENT VIA EMAIL*

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

Dear Mr. Garbacz:

We are writing to you on behalf of the North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA), regarding matters of resident concern pursuant to traffic on West Braddock Road in the vicinity of Scroggins Road. As you are no doubt aware, there exists longstanding traffic issues in this area. New speed limits and lane changes on King Street, as well as increased attendance at T.C. Williams, have seemingly increased cut-through traffic on Scroggins Road. The problem is especially apparent during the morning rush hour, in the afternoon as local schools are dismissing, and during the evening rush hour.

A proposal to significantly expand the Alexandria Presbyterian Church at 1302 West Braddock, adjacent to Scroggins Road, raises further resident concerns that traffic, pedestrian safety and parking problems in the West Braddock neighborhood will likely become worse. Whether this development project is approved or not, NRCA wants to ensure that traffic flows, pedestrian safety and parking management in the immediate vicinity of the church are closely re-examined and improved.

Therefore, NRCA is urging the City to work closely with residents in our community to address the following concerns in a timely and reasonable manner:

- **TRAFFIC:** Cut-through traffic on Scroggins Road has increased substantially over the last several years with growing traffic on West Braddock, making turns onto/from West Braddock Road increasingly risky and difficult. In addition to the Presbyterian Church plans, there is already existing heavy traffic on Sundays from the nearby First Baptist and Blessed Sacrament Churches. To reduce existing and perhaps additional future traffic congestion or delay issues, we strongly urge that the City update its traffic analysis of this location, which we understand to be about four years-old. We also request that the City continue to monitor traffic at this location as future changes may occur, including expansion of the T.C. Williams High School complex (including Minnie Howard) as a result of present and future enrollment pressures.
- **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:** Residents, including many young families and students, trying to use the marked crosswalks on West Braddock Road near Scroggins Road and Crest Street routinely encounter drivers who do not yield to pedestrians. This and other factors (steep hill crests, speeding and distracted drivers) seem to warrant additional crosswalk markings and safety features, such as flashing lights to alert drivers of pedestrians entering a crosswalk.



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- **PARKING:** City policy dictates one parking space for every five people using a church. The proposed expanded Alexandria Presbyterian Church is projected to have 98 planned spaces on the property, with arrangements being made with neighboring institutions to accommodate overflows. The increased volume of churchgoers should not be allowed to affect the already limited parking available to neighborhood residents. We ask that the City carefully monitor this situation to ensure that adequate parking spaces are indeed created.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We will continue to monitor traffic flows, pedestrian safety and parking conditions in this area, and we request that you keep us informed.

We are happy to offer NRCA as a forum for the City to present further information regarding these matters in the West Braddock Road-Scroggins Road area, and to discuss any possible actions or proposed solutions. Please feel free to call upon us should you have any questions.

Regards,

*Kay Stimson*

Kay Stimson,  
NRCA President

cc: Hon. Justin Wilson, Mayor, and Members of City Council  
Mr. Mark Jinks, City Manager  
Mr. Nathan Macek, Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission  
Mr. Yon Lambert, Director, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services  
Ms. Hillary Orr, Deputy Director for Transportation  
Ms. Cathy Puskar, Esq., on behalf of the Alexandria Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor, Alexandria Presbyterian Church  
NRCA Board Members