

Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*



Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, *Secretary*
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

Dear Jefferson Task Force:

During the Task Force meeting held on December 11, 2008, State Highway Administration (SHA) outlined a project issue and the potential solution that would result in the loss of a substantial amount of on-street parking along MD 180 from Lander Road to the US Post Office. At this meeting you requested that SHA pursue the following:

- Hold a public meeting for residents and property owners in the affected area to outline the issue, the potential solution and impact of that solution.
- Conduct a vote of all property owners affected by the issue.
- Continue with the project as funding allows if 2/3 of the vote were in favor of continuing with the project given the impact of a substantial loss of on-street parking.
- Cancel the project if SHA received less than 2/3 of the vote in favor of proceeding.
- Allow each property to have one vote cast by the property owner.
- Count any ballot not returned as a vote in favor of proceeding with the project given the impact of a substantial loss of on-street parking.

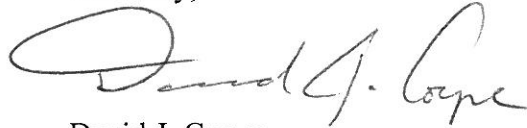
SHA sent a letter to residents and a letter to property owners in the affected area and held a public meeting on August 6, 2009. Using the Department of Assessments & Taxation database, SHA identified fifty (50) properties in the affected area and sent a ballot for each property to the respective property owners. SHA requested that this ballot be handed in at the August 6 meeting or returned with their vote by August 21, 2009.

Of the fifty (50) ballots sent, SHA has received twenty-five (25) of those ballots. Additionally, SHA has received eleven (11) additional votes for properties not identified in the Department of Assessments & Taxation database search but that have been confirmed to be in the affected area. Of the thirty-six (36) total votes received, thirty-two (32) votes were in favor of continuing with the project and four (4) votes were not. This response rate gives more than a 2/3 majority in favor of continuing with the project and the resultant loss of on-street parking. SHA acknowledges that the Jefferson Streetscape project as currently designed has the support of community.

Unfortunately, due to the effects of the national economic downturn, Maryland has been forced to make some difficult decisions that have included reductions to our transportation funding. We have experienced a 20% reduction to capital projects included in our Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). This includes all of the Streetscape projects that were not already in construction. Although, SHA has been forced to defer funding on the remaining engineering for this project, we remain committed to completing the design and requesting funding for construction once the economic picture for transportation improves. Please keep in mind that funding for this project will have to compete with other Streetscape projects at various stages of development as the transportation revenue picture improves.

Thank you for your continued work and guidance on this project. If have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. David W. Phillips, Project Manager, Office of Highway Development. I may be reached at 301-624-8102, toll free at 800-635-5119 or by email at dcoyne@sha.state.md.us and Mr. Phillips may be reached at 410-545-8823, toll-free 888-228-5003 ext. 8823 or via email at dphillips@sha.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Coyne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

David J. Coyne
District Engineer

cc: The Honorable Jan H. Gardner, President Frederick County Commissioners
The Honorable Alex X. Mooney, Senate of Maryland
The Honorable Richard B. Weldon, Jr. Maryland House of Delegates
Mr. Dennis German, Chief, Community Design Division, SHA