



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 14, 2018 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

Process for Updating and Providing Information on Work of the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Process for Working with SHA (including the Piney Branch Road/Ritchie Avenue Intersection)

Recommended Council Action

None – discussion only.

Context with Key Issues

Most of Takoma Park's major roads are State Highways. Issues regarding road maintenance, sidewalks, signage, traffic signals, etc. can have great impact on Takoma Park residents, traffic flow and pedestrian and bicycle safety. In order to more systematically address SHA-related issues as they arise, District 3 Engineer Brian Young and his staff have begun to meet with City of Takoma Park officials and staff periodically, approximately three times per year. The group reviews a list of issues and identifies options for addressing them, timelines, points for coordination, and priorities.

An issue raised by Councilmember Seamens will be added to the list to be discussed at the next meeting, which should happen by the middle of March. The issue concerns the safety of the intersection of Piney Branch Road and Ritchie Avenue and the possibility of having a traffic signal installed at that location. Many years ago this request was made while Takoma Park Middle School was being renovated. At that time, SHA decided to place a traffic signal at the school entrance rather than at Ritchie Avenue. However, it remains difficult for vehicles and pedestrians to cross Piney Branch Road at Ritchie Avenue or for a vehicle to turn onto or from Piney Branch Road at Ritchie Avenue.

Council Priority

A Livable Community For All

Environmental Impact of Action

Discussion only; no environmental impact of action.

Fiscal Impact of Action

Discussion only; no fiscal impact of action.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

The process of meeting with SHA officials to review a list of issues gathered from a variety of sources helps ameliorate a disparate racial impact. Previously, issues were only raised with SHA on a complaint basis. Persons who are property owners or are wealthier tend to be more likely to complain to SHA about such matters, with fewer complaints being submitted by persons of color.

Attachments and Links

List of SHA-related issues.

Topics for Meeting with Mr. Slater, SHA Deputy Administrator

- 1. Maintenance Concerns - median maintenance, utility cuts, roadway maintenance**
 - a. Failing utility patches and lack of enforcement
 - b. Vegetation management along MD 195 Carroll Avenue – recent improvements
 - c. Temporary patches not followed up with permanent repairs
- 2. Update on Takoma Junction Traffic Study – status? next steps?**
- 3. Pedestrian Signal Upgrade Project - issues with implementation and delay in completion**
 - a. Extreme delay in completion
 - b. Many portions left partially complete - Maple Ave and MD 410 curb ramp impacted school children
 - c. Traffic signal pole choice in Historic District at Takoma Ave and MD 410, questions remain about right-of-way line along private property
- 4. Standards for Street Lighting Along State Routes – City is doing LED retrofit through Pepco for all street lights**
- 5. Sidewalk Retrofit Project**
 - a. City-wide, funds included in City’s FY18 CIP and beyond
 - b. MD 410 Philadelphia Avenue near Montgomery College
- 6. Process for New Sidewalk Installation in Areas with Heavy Pedestrian Activity**
 - a. MD 195 Carroll Avenue near MD 193 University Blvd
- 7. MD 410 MOU - requires City notification anytime a utility applies to SHA**
 - a. Spotty compliance
- 8. Process for Requesting Additional Safety Measures – crosswalks, signage, signals**
 - a. MD 410 Ethan Allen Avenue – pedestrian safety concern
 - b. Intersection of Ritchie Avenue and MD 320 Piney Branch Rd –request for signalization

1 A – MD195 Carroll Avenue in Old Town

1 B – MD 195 Carroll Avenue – significant improvement in median maintenance

1 C – MD 195 Carroll Avenue in Old Town

3A – Laurel Avenue & MD 195 Carroll Avenue, incomplete pedestrian signal upgrade

3B – Maple Avenue and MD 410 – incomplete pedestrian signal upgrade
same condition since end of August

3C – MD 410 & Takoma Avenue – pedestrian signal upgrade in historic district
Choice of signal poles and ROW boundary

5B – MD 410 Philadelphia Avenue near Chicago Avenue

6A – MD195 Carroll Avenue near MD 193 University Blvd – sidewalk request

8A – MD 410 Ethan Allen Avenue & Sycamore Avenue – pedestrian safety concerns

8B – MD 320 & Ritchie Avenue – safety concerns, signal request