



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

TOM HUCKER
COUNCILMEMBER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

October 24, 2019

Greg Slater
Administrator
MDOT State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Administrator Slater:

We are disappointed to learn from our constituents that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) continues to conduct noisy overnight construction directly adjacent to high rise residential buildings in our district. The SHA has been conducting a resurfacing and concrete project along U.S. 29 between MD 97 and Saint Andrews Way in Silver Spring, with construction largely occurring during the overnight hours to reduce traffic impacts.

The project limits include the densely populated downtown Silver Spring central business district with several apartment buildings lining a portion of U.S. 29 between MD 97 and Noyes Drive. Our constituents have sent us videos of construction crews operating hydraulic hammers and concrete saws in the early morning hours on weekdays right outside of these apartment buildings home to hundreds of sleeping residents. Much of the noisy work has been reported as late as 3AM.

We understand the need to minimize traffic impacts from construction, but noisy overnight work in such a densely populated urban area is simply unreasonable. Traffic can be rerouted; homes cannot.

We ask that your order the project team to refrain from any noisy construction work after 11PM at the absolute latest within 200 yards of apartment buildings and single family houses. Our constituents should not lose a night's sleep so that motorists can avoid a few minutes of delay. If

the project schedule must be reworked to avoid disrupting the sleep of hundreds of residents, that schedule change is both prudent and necessary.

On much of Maryland's road network, overnight construction can occur with minimal disruption due to low population density in the vicinity of the work zone. But in an urban area like downtown Silver Spring, sleepless nights should not be seen as a viable tradeoff for reducing construction-related traffic delays.

Thank you for acting upon our request.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Tom Hucker, District 5

Senator William Smith, District 20

Delegate David Moon, District 20

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, District 20