

Silver Spring Innovation Center

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TX.PARCEL P979
ACCT.#0976236 ₽1100 2 STORY BRICK BLDG. TX.P.ARCEL P982 ACCT. #00976178 Proposed SSIC Building Preliminary Site Concept Plan 34-5-1/4 PHASE II 121-3 3/8 PHASE EAST/WEST HIGHWAY 00000000000



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Douglas M. Duncan County Executive

March 6, 2003

Elizabeth B. Davison Director

Mr. Derick P. Berlage, Chairman Montgomery County Planning Board 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re:

Silver Spring Innovation Center -

Streetscape Implementation

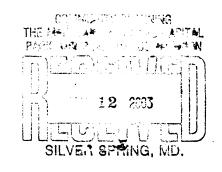
Dear Mr

The Department of Economic Development (DED) and the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) have agreed to combine the Blair Mill Road streetscape element of the Silver Spring Innovation Center (north side of Blair Mill Road) with the DHCA streetscape project on the opposite side of the street. This arrangement has been discussed with your staff, Glenn Kreger and Miguel Iraola, who agree that coordination of the entire streetscape for this segment of Blair Mill Road will be more effective under this approach.

This impacts the scope of review of the Innovation Center project under Mandatory Referral. The submittal of detailed information for the streetscaping part of that project will be deferred for incorporation into DHCA's submission for the opposite side of Blair Mill Road. The schedule for this combined Mandatory Referral submittal is August 2003. This will allow time to bid the project and be ready to construct the streetscape in late winter, early spring 2004. This timeline corresponds with the construction schedule for the Innovation Center building, which is anticipated to be completed by March 2004.

Both departments are committed to implementing this streetscape project, in accord with the Silver Spring Streetscape Standards for secondary streets.





Mr. Derick P. Berlage, Chairman March 6, 2003 Page 2

Please consider this arrangement as a commitment to the process as outlined and to the implementation of the streetscape, as described.

Sincerely,

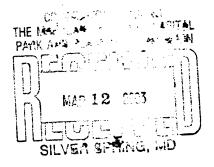
Elizabeth B. Davison, Director

Department of Housing and Community Affairs

David W. Edgerley, Director

Department of Economic Development

EBD:DWE:dt



This 2 page fox to: Attachment 10
Mr Don Downing

From:

The Gateway Coalition

Of Business and Civic Associations in Maryland and D.C. Dedicated to the Revitalization of South Silver Spring And Upper Georgia Avenue in the District of Columbia

Co-Chair for Maryland Daniel Meijer 929 Gist Avenue Silver Spring Md. 20910 (301) 585-1458

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Co-Chair for District of Columbia Gracie Baten 7624 13th St. N.W. Washington D.C. 20012 (202) 882-6162

January 23, 2002

Montgomery County Government DPWT - Property Acquisition Section Hearing Examiner: Mr. Ron Berger 101 Monroe St., 6th floor Rockville, Maryland 20850

(240) 777-7252 (fax) 777-7259

RE: Abandonment of Portion of Blair Mil Road (DPWT docket # AB-652)

Dear Hearing Examiner Mr. Berger,

I am Daniel Meijer, recently elected Co-Chair of the Gateway Coalition. The Gateway Coalition consists of Business and Civic Associations in Maryland and D.C. dedicated to the Revitalization of South Silver Spring and Upper Georgia Avenue in the District of Columbia. We have been publicly meeting monthly for nearly 10 years.

At the last monthly Gateway meeting, some of our members expressed concern regarding the proposed closure of Blair Mill Road (DPWT docket # AB-652). Specifically, they brought to our attention the problem of safely reaching or leaving such popular establishments as Chisfields Seafood Restaurant and Abbey Camera should this road become inaccessible to the public.

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Currently, these establishments may be reached by automobile from the south via a safe right turn from East West Highway, then parking on Blair Mill Road and returning home via the right turn only restriction at Blair Mill Road and Georgia Avenue. These customers will not be able to reach & patronize these establishments if Blair Mill Road is closed to the public.

These establishments are also reached from potential customers in East Silver Spring & Fenton St. Village via a right from Georgia Avenue onto Blair Mill Road. However, these customers cannot return this way due to a no left turn restriction at this same location. Forced then to travel southbound from this intersection, they subsequently encounter another no left turn restriction at East West Highway and Georgia Ave. Beyond this intersection, it is no longer possible to return to East Silver Spring. Currently, these customers may exit from Blair Mill Road at its opposite end where they can safely make a left turn on East West Highway to return to their homes or businesses.

The latest version of the proposed site plan (exhibit 2 of docket # AB-652) appears to allow the physical possibility of such local traffic to enter in and exit out both ends of Blair Mill Road via cutting through the first floor of the proposed parking garage. Similar local traffic routes are permitted in other parking garages in downtown Silver Spring. If the road must be closed for such a project, on behalf of our concerned Gateway members, please require that such a cut through route be a condition of approval.

Thank you for considering this request,

Daniel Meijer