



**WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, December 3, 2003, for the purpose of meeting with representatives of the State Highway Administration.**

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Konrad Herling, Leta Mach and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager and David E. Moran, Assistant to the City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Charlie Watkins, SHA District Engineer; Majib Shakib, SHA Assistant District Engineer; Dennis Ingram, SHA; Sheldon Goldberg, Advisory Planning Board and Virginia Beauchamp, News Review

There were introductions. Mayor Davis gave a brief overview. She wondered if State budget cuts were possibly part of the problem.

Status of maintenance program vis-à-vis budget cuts: Mayor Davis commented she thought maintenance on State roadways had declined. Mr. Watkins indicated that his district had received a small budget cut, but it had not impacted maintenance. He noted that funding for the Neighborhood Conservation Program was on hold indefinitely. Mr. Roberts asked if noise barriers were affected. Mr. Watkins responded that capital projects (like noise barriers) were being affected by the cuts. Mr. Watkins stressed that traffic signals and maintenance were being fully funded and should not be affected by budget cuts. Mr. Shakib stated that signal or street light outages should be reported to his office. He noted that signal outages should normally be corrected within 24 hours. Mr. Watkins did indicate that his office had been affected by the State hiring freeze.

Bus stop at Greenway Center: Mr. Watkins indicated that the sidewalk program had been on hold until September. He indicated that they are now playing catch up. Mr. Roberts indicated that this was a safety concern. Mr. Watkins noted that Metro installs bus stop without any regard to safety. He stated that the funding was now available and as soon as the weather permitted this would be accomplished, probably in the Spring.

Sidewalk along Greenbelt Road to Southway and pedestrian crossing (fatality): Mr. Watkins indicated the sidewalk would be constructed. He also stated that SHA was investigating the fatality. Mr. Shakib stated that they were looking at where the most appropriate pedestrian crossing would be installed. Any new crosswalk would have to connect to a sidewalk. Mr. Watkins stated that addressing pedestrian safety issues was a top priority.

Sidewalk along Greenbelt Road adjacent to Windsor Green (near Mandan Road): Mayor Davis noted that there was a tripping hazard. Mr. Watkins indicated this sidewalk would be replaced as the same time as the bus stop and other work.

Neighborhood Conservation Program: Mr. Watkins stressed that this was a safety program as well as a beautification program. He indicated that Cities and their residents needed to communicate this to the Governor. Council suggested this be added to the upcoming legislative dinner agenda.

Flooded manhole on Greenbelt Road just past Hanover Parkway: Mr. Watkins reported that this was a Verizon manhole and the water was coming through their conduits and coming out of the manhole at this low point. The parties are still looking for the source of the water.

Relocation of the salt storage facility on Kenilworth Avenue: Mr. Watkins indicated that the major problem was another location for the salt facility. He stressed that this facility was essential for snow removal along State roads in the area. Mayor Davis asked if it could be beautified. Mr. Watkins asked the City to provide suggestions about how to do this.

Timing of pedestrian crossing signal at Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway: Mayor Davis noted that she has walked this intersection and that the timing is inadequate. Mr. Shakib responded that the timing was based on national standards. He indicated he would investigate this pedestrian signal and communicate his findings with the City Manager. He also indicated a willingness to meet any Council members or residents on site.

Extent of SHA right of way responsibility on Cherrywood Lane and Walker Drive: Mr. Watkins noted that an arrangement had been worked out to put a sidewalk in front of Beltway Plaza. He indicated that this pot hole would be fixed as part of this project. Mr. Watkins stated he would look at Walker Drive.

Maintenance along sidewalk on north side of Greenbelt Road at Beltway overpass: Mr. McLaughlin stated that this sidewalk needed maintenance and was experiencing overgrowth and silting. Mr. Watkins stated that there was a law requiring municipalities or private property owners to maintain sidewalks on State highways. He indicated that cooperative partnerships with municipalities were generally easy to justify.

Signs on State Highways: There was discussion about these signs. Mr. Watkins stated that these signs were always illegal and no advertising signs were allowed on State property.

Traffic Signal at Lakecrest Drive: Mr. Watkins indicated that SHA had looked at this intersection in the past and the intersection had not met the warrants for a signal. Mr. Shakib agreed to study this intersection again.

Other Issues: Mr. Herling asked about the use of pedestrian signals which countdown. Mr. Watkins indicated that SHA was experimenting with these. Mr. Roberts asked about noise barriers and stressed that residents were very concerned about this. Mr. Watkins

indicated that the City should contact Charlie Adams about this issue. Mayor Davis asked about timing of signals. Mr. Shakib responded that there are many variations and factors that affect signal timing.

#### Other Issues

Mayor Davis announced that the Maryland Mayors Conference was coming up and would cost the City about \$200. It was agreed to put this on the upcoming regular meeting agenda. Mayor Davis reported that PGCMA was asking if their legislative priority re: protecting municipal funding was on the right track. Council responded yes. Mayor Davis also relayed a request from PGCMA asking if there was support for TRIM modification. Council members provided feedback for the Mayor to relay to PGCMA.

The meeting ended at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran Assistant to the City Manager