

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: John L. Fitzwater
Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: November 17, 2016

1. MD 197 Design Funding Restored

Last week, staff attended the Maryland Department of Transportation briefing for Prince George's County concerning the State's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). Early in his presentation, MDOT Secretary Pete Rahn announced that funding for design of MD 197 will be restored in the final CTP document that will be distributed to legislators in January. The project to upgrade and widen MD 197 to four lanes from Kenhill Drive to MD 450 is City Council's highest priority and is fourth on the recently released Prince George's County Transportation Priority List. However, we note that there are still some questions about whether the utility companies (BGE, Verizon, Comcast and Washington Gas) will be able to devote any further staff resources to the project, since it is not funded for construction, or if they can work together to achieve a timely solution to achieve utility coordination. Staff is preparing a letter to the SHA Administrator highlighting these concerns and requesting his cooperation in helping to resolve the current dilemma, which still threatens design activities from proceeding.

2. Bowie Marketplace Residential Public Hearing

On Tuesday, the Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) conducted a public hearing on three applications submitted for the Bowie Marketplace Residential proposal, which include a Conceptual Site Plan, a Preliminary Plan of subdivision and a Detailed Site Plan. Over 150 people attended, including Councilmembers Gardner, Glass, Marcos and Esteve. A total of 34 speakers addressed the BAPB during the public hearing. Those who spoke were overwhelmingly against the proposal to construct the 288-unit multi-family apartment project. Most residents were concerned about the traffic impact and the effects of such a large development on the adjoining Somerset neighborhood. The BAPB voted unanimously to accept the staff recommendation of disapproval of all three applications. Following the hearing, Berman Enterprises withdrew their application for a parking Departure (BD-1-16) to reduce the width and number of parking spaces in the proposed parking garage. The three applications reviewed by the BAPB are scheduled for a City Council public hearing on January 3, 2017.

3. BGE Opt-Out Data

When BGE appeared before City Council on October 17th, City Council asked for opt-out data in Bowie broken out by senior customers if possible. Below is the opt-out data for ZIP Codes 20715 and 20716. Unfortunately, BGE is unable to break this out exclusively for Bowie, but the 20715 and 20716 ZIP Codes do incorporate much of Bowie. Also, the BGE customer base does not include age in the customer profile, so they are unable to break this out by senior customers.

Zip code	Opted Out	#Cust	Percent Opt Out
20715	178	10825	1.644%
20716	56	9974	0.561%

4. County Council Results (CB-55-2016)

On Tuesday, November 15th, the Prince George’s County Council held a public hearing on CB-55-2016, a Zoning Ordinance text amendment that would permit vehicle parts or tire stores in the C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) Zone, under certain circumstances. The legislation was submitted by Council Member Todd Turner at the request of the City Council to address a zoning setback issue related to the occupancy permit for Chaney Tire and Auto, which is attempting to return to the Bowie Marketplace shopping center. City Council sent a letter supporting the proposed bill. Council Member Danielle Glaros moved to approve CB-55-2016. Council Member Turner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.