

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: September 17, 2015

1. Tree Rebate Program Now Available for FY16

The City's tree rebate program resumed on September 14th, and fall is a great time to plant. Rebates up to \$100 are available for residents at Patuxent Nursery (2410 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD). There are 11 species of trees eligible for rebates, and trees must be planted on the resident's property. All program details can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate, and applications are available at the Nursery.

2. MD 197 Informational Public Meeting

On Wednesday, September 16th, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) sponsored a public informational meeting regarding the MD 197 improvement project, between Kenhill Drive and MD 450, at the Kenhill Center. Over 100 people attended the meeting, including Senator Doug Peters, Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, County Council Member Todd Turner and most of the City Council. The purpose of the meeting was to update residents about the project design and to hear their questions and comments. Ms. Vivian Berra-Figueroa, the SHA Project Manager, gave a brief overview and answered questions. Questions/comments included:

- Will the 16' wide bicycle compatible lane be marked as a bike lane? A: While it has not been completely designed, there will likely be some identification. At a minimum, Share the Road signs will be placed along the corridor.
- Will left turns into Lyle Lane be eliminated? A: Yes, there will be a median constructed at this location that will prevent left turns into and out of Lyle Lane and Faith Lane.
- Could the number of utility cables in backyards be reduced? A: The Project Manager will check with the utility companies.
- Will the noise walls be designed to be aesthetically pleasing? A: Planting of vines is one method of improving the appearance of the walls that is being considered.

- Why can't the alignment be shifted to the west and some elements be eliminated, such as the sidewalk along the west side of the roadway, to avoid such significant impacts to property on the east side, especially at the northern end of the project near Old Annapolis Road? A: This will be further examined as part of the refinement of the overall design.
- Why add a hiker-biker trail when there is no similar facility north or south of the project corridor? A: A wide sidewalk exists to the north and a hiker-biker trail does exist south of Kenhill Drive with a bridge crossing US 50.
- Comment: MD 197 was previously designed with the current improvements on the west side, which impacted the Long Ridge community. Impacts to property on the east side are justified.
- Comment: The speed limit of the new roadway should be reduced from the current 40 mph to 35 mph. City streets should be examined for stop signs and other methods to slow speeds of the cut-through traffic that uses City streets to avoid congestion on MD 197.
- Could SHA examine noise-reducing asphalt, such as that used in Virginia by VDOT, to alleviate noise impacts on the community? The Project Manager will examine this request.
- Comment: A traffic signal should be installed at the Faith/Lyle intersection. The islands that were installed on MD 197 to channelize left turning traffic led to many accidents.
- Will the noise wall at the north end of Foxhill Park have a break in it to allow residents to continue to use the existing hiker-biker trail to access the park? A: The current plan eliminates this access but the project team is reexamining the need for a connection.
- Why aren't there noise walls planned for the section of MD 197, north of MD 450, since the homes are much closer to the road? A: That location is beyond the project corridor and can't be considered as part of this project.
- Will the current overhead utility wires be buried underground as a result of the road improvement plan? A: Burial of utility lines is very costly and the utilities are privately owned. The Project Manager will review this request with the utility companies.

The Project Manager indicated that all public comments will be taken into consideration as the project design moves forward. If funding is made available for right-of-way and construction, a tentative project construction start date is Winter/Spring 2018, with completion expected by Summer 2020.

3. Pump Station #8 Generator Replacement

The FY16 Budget allocates funds for the replacement of a generator at pump station #8, located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Under a State of Maryland Contract, BPO #001B5400122 with Curtis Engine & Equipment, Inc., a 60 kW generator can be acquired for \$26,270, including installation. The budget for this generator is \$32,000. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Curtis Engine & Equipment, Inc. for a total amount of \$26,270.

4. Old Bowie Farmers' Market

A new Farmers' Market is expected to begin next Wednesday in Town Green Park in Old Bowie. Hours are 3:00-7:00 p.m.

5. Another Recognition for City

Recently the City of Bowie was named one of the top cities in the U.S. for women entrepreneurs. The recognition came from GoodCall, a data analysis company that rated over 400 cities on their core economic strength, business climate for women, professional networking potential, and female education values. Their press release is attached to this report.

This recognition is one of several that the City of Bowie has received over the last few years. We have created a "Kudos" page on our website to showcase them. You can view it by going to www.cityofbowie.org/kudos or by going to the *Our Community* tab on the home page and selecting *Kudos for Bowie*.

6. School Resource Officer

The City has had a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Bowie High School since the 2011-2012 school year. Each year the City has received an \$80,000 reimbursement for our cost, which is the same arrangement that has been in place for Greenbelt at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and for Hyattsville at Northwestern High School. Mayor Robinson and I met yesterday with Tom Himler, Barry Stanton and Bea Tignor from the County Executive's staff. We pointed out the obvious fact that Bowie High School is a County school, and not a City facility. We also mentioned that we have a SRO at Belair Annex, and County funding is not being sought for the City investment at that County school. County staff responded that the County Police Department incurred a \$9 million budget cut, of which \$6 million is a reduction in overtime. In response to the County staff's question of what the City Council would ultimately do with the SRO assuming the County position of no reimbursement stands, Mayor Robinson and I pointed out that we have had no communication from the County on this matter, and that it did not make sense to put this item on a Council agenda in the absence of a letter from the County Executive. County staff said they would brief the County Executive and let us know the County position.



Bowie Ranked #50 out of 405 as Best City in the U.S. For Female Entrepreneurs to Launch their Business

Outranking Laurel, MD at #69

August 19, 2015, Fort Mill, S.C., GoodCall: The city of Bowie, MD was ranked #50 in a new report by data-science group [GoodCall](#) as one of the best cities in the U.S. for women entrepreneurs to launch their business.

“Bowie offers women entrepreneurs a healthy economy, strong educational values, and a large percentage of women-owned businesses – 33.16% of the city’s establishments are owned by women, higher than the national average and highest on our list,” says Eppie Vojt founder of GoodCall. “These components make Bowie a great place for any entrepreneur to start a business.”

"The City of Bowie should be at the top of every female entrepreneur’s list of cities, where they can find the community, business culture and targeted business support to drive the success of their businesses,” says Lisa S. Smith, Executive Director of the Bowie Business Innovation Center. “Women-owned businesses are a distinct community in Bowie, representing more than 33% of all Bowie businesses — which is the highest concentration of women-owned businesses in communities listed in the GoodCall 2015 Best Cities for Women Entrepreneurs report. The City of Bowie led a group of public and private sector partners to invest in the development of practical business support targeted to female entrepreneurs through the business incubation program, the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC). This is the only business incubation program in the State of Maryland that is co-located with a Women’s Business Center. Bowie BIC’s corporate partners have also supported innovative special programming for women-owned businesses. The City of Bowie is truly ‘Open for Business’ with female entrepreneurs!"

A total of 405 cities were evaluated on the metrics of core economic strength, business climate for women, professional networking potential and female education values.

The report also features advice for women entrepreneurs provided by national experts from the [U.S. Small Business Administration’s Office of Women’s Business Ownership](#), The [National Women’s Business Council](#) and the [American Association of University Women](#).

Read the full report regarding Bowie’s ranking, including methodology and data sources here: <http://www.goodcall.com/data-center/2015s-best-cities-for-women-entrepreneurs/>

About GoodCall: The GoodCall research team analyzes official government data to develop reports that help students, recent graduates and financial consumers make decisions about their careers, college choices and more. The [GoodCall Data Center](#) was born from the idea that in an increasingly complex online marketplace, consumers deserve access to the information they need to make educated financial decisions.

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