



Resolution Supporting the Installation of a Traffic Light or Pedestrian Signal at the Intersection of Magarity and Peabody Roads near Westgate Elementary School June 4, 2014

Whereas, the absence of a traffic light at the intersection of Magarity and Peabody Roads near Westgate Elementary School poses unacceptable risks to elementary students and other pedestrians on this highly-travelled road; and,

Whereas, a Community and Parents Petition supporting the installation of a traffic light at the intersections of Magarity and Peabody Roads has been endorsed by over 140 parents residing in Pimmit Hills, Olney Park, and the Commons of McLean- Pimmit Hills Citizen's Association- Westgate Parents and Teachers Association- and other surrounding communities; and,

Whereas, Magarity Road is an uneven road with ups, downs, and curves as well as a 35 mile speed limit, which leads to vehicles having variable speed and resulting in blind spots for both pedestrians and drivers, and the Magarity/Peabody intersection is at an elevation causing blind spots for drivers and pedestrians/elementary children crossing the road; and,

Whereas, The student population at Westgate Elementary School is expected to have increased by about 25% (200 students) over the 2013 enrollment by school year 2016, further exacerbating the safety problems; and,

Whereas, The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) conducted a study of the intersection of Magarity and Peabody Roads, but did not find that sufficient warrants, as described in the Federal Highway Administration *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*, were present to require the installation of a traffic light, or a pedestrian signal to control traffic, at this intersection; and,

Whereas, VDOT's study appears to give primary consideration to vehicular traffic, not pedestrian volume or safety, and does not appear to have given adequate consideration to the risk to students, parents, and other pedestrians that cross Magarity Road at this intersection; and,

Whereas, The MUTCD indicates that, when examining intersections for the installation of a traffic signal, a study should be conducted of pedestrian volume during the relevant hours at the intersection being studied, and

Whereas, a review of VDOT's study indicates that VDOT did not conduct a study of pedestrian volume at this intersection; and,

Whereas, although VDOT's study identified the presence of a crossing guard at this intersection prior to, and after, school is in session as a mitigating factor for the MUTCD school crossing warrant, the study did not appear to give adequate consideration to the fact that there is no crossing guard for many after-school activities, or for evening school events; and,

Whereas, the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association reports that the Crossing Guard who works at this intersection has signed a petition calling for the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Magarity and Peabody Roads, thereby undermining VDOT's reliance on a crossing guard as a mitigating factor; and,

Whereas, VDOT's study also did not consider projected increases in pedestrian traffic when the McLean Silver Line Metro Station opens in late summer of 2014, and further did not consider that the Scotts Run Trail, which is being developed to provide pedestrian access to the McLean Metro station from Magarity Road through the Scotts Run Community Park located adjacent to Westgate Elementary School, will significantly add to pedestrian volume.

Now therefore be it resolved: That VDOT should conduct a new study of the need for the installation of a traffic signal or pedestrian activated traffic signal at the intersection of Magarity and Peabody Roads that gives adequate consideration to the current and projected volume of pedestrian traffic, as well as vehicular traffic, and the safety of elementary school children and other pedestrians that cross at this intersection.

cc: Senator Janet Howell
Delegate Marcus Simon
Hon John Foust
Hon Linda Smyth
Hon Sharon Bulova
Hon Aubrey Layne
Mr. Tom Biesiadny, Director, Fairfax County DOT
Ms. Helen Cuervo – VDOT