

We are Andrew Schneider, Edwin Schneider, Monica Fulvio, and Penelope Ganzel, a multigenerational household of working adults who live at 103 E. Indian Spring Dr, Silver Spring, MD. We live in the Indian Spring neighborhood which is immediately adjacent to the Beltway just south of it, between Colesville Road and University Blvd. There are 800 homes in our neighborhood association, and our family has lived here for 35 years.

We oppose widening 270 and 495, and support holding the state of Maryland accountable for its promises regarding P3s; promises that have already been broken in the development of the purple line. The state of Maryland cannot afford to mortgage their future in a 50 year contract with a toll company whose goal is to make money, not alleviate traffic (especially as it pertains to non-highway roads, which are the real problem). The project would prevent further future-thinking and climate-sensible ideas in a time when more cars and roads run against our national and world-wide interest.

Widening the beltway will have a significant, negative impact on our neighborhood; putting its character, cohesion, and livability severely at risk.

Montgomery County and Maryland are working to limit hardscape runoff -- and pouring many resources, including rebates through the Rainscapes project -- into limiting the hardscape in the area to help benefit the Chesapeake watershed and limit polluted runoff. Improving the Chesapeake watershed is vital to the environment and the economy of our state. This project would significantly negatively impact that, and the proposed environmental offsets are much further from the Chesapeake.

As a neighborhood, we personally struggle with hardscape runoff. Homes in the neighborhood suffer repeated flooding during heavy rains, and additional lanes would only exacerbate this. There is a significant green space buffer zone (including a spring source) that would be lost, impacting our water quality and wildlife diversity.

A number of homes are currently right next to the Beltway. They will at least lose a significant portion of their backyards and could lose more.

A park and playground in the middle of our neighborhood would be significantly reduced as well as a county recreation center which is in the middle of the park and which our community makes great use of, especially during the pandemic when outdoor green space is so important.

Thank you,
Andrew, Monica, Penny, and Edwin