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Monday, May 13, 2019

To: Montgomery County Council President Navarro
Montgomery County Council

Subject: Funding to study connecting North High Street

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) regarding County funding to study connecting North High Street to Morningwood Drive in the Olney Town Center.

GOCA understands that approximately \$150,000 had been proposed for the County's Fiscal Year 2020 budget for this study, but that the County Executive has suggested that the funding be postponed one fiscal year to FY 2021.

As you know, opening the connection from North High Street to Morningwood Drive is anticipated to have multiple benefits for the Olney Town Center. Through extending the existing grid network of roadways, such a connection could provide alternative access to the Town Center from the west, reducing some traffic on Georgia Avenue at a section that experiences considerable congestion. Such an improvement would also allow the area to be redeveloped, something anticipated by the Olney Master Plan. Finally, the project is expected to significantly improve pedestrian connections in the area.

GOCA has supported this project for some time and would like to see it move forward into the County's Capital Budget as soon as possible. Of course, delaying the study for a year would necessarily delay the capital project as well.

We ask that the Council retain the originally-projected funds for the study, to allow this important project to continue to move forward.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Matthew Quinn
President
Greater Olney Civic Association, Inc.