

Oct 8, 2015

Dear Planning Board Members,

Can anyone of you please tell me what is the vision of Howard County and more specifically what is the vision of Snowden River Parkway? Is it to be another Route 1, Route 40, or Rockville Pike? I find it extremely compelling that the Columbia Association, the Columbia Villages and the citizens who have come before you to testify have delivered overwhelming testimony for you to unequivocally say, "NO." Will Snowden River Parkway become another major mistake because of bad strategic planning or a lack of planning on your part causing a future Task Force to be formed just like the Revitalization of US1 and US40? When is enough quite simply enough?

This proposal before you needs to be denied as it simply is based on the traffic congestions alone. Snowden River Parkway cannot and will not in the future be able to accommodate the number of vehicles. I understand that the Royal Farms Car Wash could have as many as 100 to 150 cars per hour entering the facility and with the 20 gas pumps this would be an impossible venture. This project will in no way be vibrant but rather deplorable for the community. The quality of life should always trump any economic benefit especially when the infrastructure does not fit now or in the future. I cannot imagine the total frustration motorists will have when attempting to travel from Route 32 and Broken Land Parkway to witness a bottleneck that will only cause people to get even more frustrated than what they are today not to mention the traffic attempting to travel going both directions on Snowden River and Broken Land. You simply need to apply common sense before you decide to go off the deep end.

What Tom Coale stated about Royal Farms being good for businesses on Snowden River Parkway is laughable but is no joke. This is an accident waiting to happen. We are hoping that it will not be an accident on your part to say "No." We have enough Gas Stations on the Parkway and there is a Car Wash right-up the street from this proposal.

As you have heard everyone who has thus far testified is very much against this proposal. The message from this body should be we have not only heard from the array of distinguished groups and citizens and we fully agree with their assessments so we therefore have no choice but to deny this request. We do not want to revisit a poor decision that would cause our future to be uninviting and a major detriment to us all. Yes – we agree the Royal Farms proposal is not a part of the Snowden River Parkway equation because we, the Planning Board believe what is best for the citizens of Howard County and our motorists.

Thank You,

JD Smith

HCCA Board Member