



# HCCA

**Howard County Citizens Association**

*Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County*

Date: September 16, 2019

Subject: **HCCA Testimony – CR 120-2019**

My name is Alan Schneider. I am a Board member and officer of Howard County Citizens Association and authorized to testify for HCCA. We are in FAVOR of Adopting the Howard County Complete Streets Policy and requiring the development of a Complete Streets Manual.

HCCA joins with the numerous other organizations supporting CR 120. Our growing population, our increasing number of students, and our rapidly expanding traffic congestion requires adoption of improvements and planning for the future safety and wellbeing of our communities, and our children.

In addition to the others supporting CR 120, another example is that a community requested sidewalks and street improvements for a development adding 154 homes. Students who will be living in those homes will be travelling less than a mile to the nearby elementary school and middle school for classes or after school activities.

There is no sidewalk to the school. The narrow road to the schools crosses a narrow bridge near sharp curves in the road near the school. Citizens raised safety concerns at meetings. They were bypassed.

Adequate sidewalks and road improvements were not required by the developer. The developer did not volunteer additional safety or road improvements. Improvements cost money. The developer was not required to provide community requested improvements for the safety of children, and neither were road improvements in the area which would be needed by the significant increase in traffic. Companies do everything to maximize profit. Persuasively argue against minor upgrades. Avoid recommended plan improvements that could to be made later at much greater taxpayer or community expense.

Children and students living in this development are at risk. Serious accidents will inevitably occur on the way to the schools, playgrounds or other activities at the schools, or others on the way to work.

Everyone benefits by upgrading requirements for streets and sidewalks. Real estate values would be enhanced in the new development, in the surrounding communities, and in Howard County if additional pedestrian and road improvements were required.

Howard County would be enriched by a reputation for better sidewalks, roads, and better housing. We are counting on you to take immediate action now.

Thank you for taking a step forward for a better, safer future for Howard County.

Respectfully,

Alan Schneider

Howard County Citizens Association Board Member