



## **The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.**

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Superintendent Charles Cuvelier  
George Washington Memorial Parkway Headquarters  
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway McLean, VA 22101

Dec 15, 2022

Subject: Comments regarding the National Park Service (NPS) proposed plan and environmental assessment to improve the southern portion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and the Mount Vernon Trail.

Dear Superintendent Cuvelier:

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association (MVCCA), I thank you and the NPS for taking this very important step in the process leading to the possible implementation of much needed long-term safety improvements and address maintenance needs along the GWMP and the Mount Vernon Trail.

We strongly support this required next step to implement potential long-term improvements to the GWMP as identified by the "Safety Study". This includes the implementation of a new road diet which reduces lanes through pavement striping in order to improve vehicular safety. In some areas, new crosswalks and intersection changes should be implemented. Potential safety enhancements for the trail could include widening and intersection improvements.

In reference to the proposed intersection design at Belle Haven Road, we are convinced a better design has to be found. Regrettably even the latest intersection designs under consideration still have the potential of being confusing and dangerous to drivers.

We do have some specific intersection design concerns, areas of support, questions, and suggestions. This list is in no order of importance.

1. The current recommended intersection configuration for Belle View Boulevard is to use same intersection design now being reconsidered at Belle Haven Road that appears to be problematic and will be somewhat confusing and potentially unsafe. A better idea may be

combining of the North Bound (NB) Road Diet configuration, adding a South Bound (SB) Road Diet, and safe havens for vehicles. We suggest an outside review of the current proposed intersection designs.

2. We support:
  - a. NB Road Diet concept.
  - b. Trail improvements with safer crosswalks at busier intersection.
  - c. Comfort station remodeling.
  - d. Crosswalks at all intersections and at Bus stops.
  - e. Replacement of the Yield Sign (at MV Circle) with a Stop sign.
3. Question:

What about roundabouts? They were previously being considered.
4. We suggest: Conducting a GWMP southern section speed study and if warranted reduce speeds to 35 MPH. This is especially needed since Richmond Highway has a current speed study and will most likely result in the posted speed of 45 MPH being reduced to 35 MPH in some, if not, in most of the area.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration on improving safety and infrastructure on GWMP and the Mount Vernon Trail.

APPROVED BY THE MVCCA MEMBERSHIP DEC 14, 2022

Sincerely,

*Katherine Ward*

Katherine Ward  
Cochair  
MVCCA

Copy to:

Representative Don Beyer  
Noah Simon, District Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Don Beyer  
Senator Scott A. Surovell  
Delegate Paul Krizek  
Mount Vernon District Supervisor, Dan Storck  
CAPT Joan E. Darrah, USN (Ret) New Alexandria Citizens Association, President