



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

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

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Supervisor Dan Storck
Senator Scott Surovell
Delegate Kathy Tran
Delegate Paul Krizek

June 28, 2018

On behalf of The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association's the attached resolution/list of concerns is forward for your support and action. This resolution and its accompanying list of safety concerns was approved by the MVCCA General Council unanimously on June 27, 2018.

Thank you for your support.

Katherine Ward

Katherine Ward
Co-Chair
MVCCA

Enclosed: MVCCA (Tran) 2018-03 Resolution MVCCA Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Safety Improvements including the list of safety concerns

cc: Tom Biesiadny FCDOT
Allison Richter VDOT

**MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA)
RESOLUTION (TRANS) 2018-03 SUPPORTING IMPROVED SAFETY FOR DRIVERS,
PEDESTRIANS, AND BICYCLISTS ALONG THE MOUNT VERNON MEMORIAL
HIGHWAY (MVMH) AN APPROXIMATE 3.4 MILE ROAD FROM RICHMOND HWY
TO THE INTERSECTION WITH MT. VERNON HWY AT GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
ESTATE.**

- 1. WHEREAS:** Many Mount Vernon District residents live along the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and are deeply concerned with traffic challenges along this important commuting route that threaten the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists and advocate a better understanding of traffic volume, accident statistics, and options for safety improvements to make this important artery safer for all users, and;
 - 2. WHEREAS:** Citizens are very concerned that excessive speed and distracted driving has resulted in a significant increase in crashes involving both vehicles and pedestrians on the MVMH, and;
 - 3. WHEREAS:** Citizens are worried that the current safety signage and line of sight at all pedestrian crossings and intersections along the MVMH are not adequate as demonstrated by a recent tragic traffic accident involving a 15 year old jogger, who was first hit by one car and then run over by a second, all while in a crosswalk, causing significant injuries, and;
 - 4. WHEREAS:** Citizens believe it may be time to reduce the speed limit on the MVMH due in part to increasing traffic volumes due to many factors including the increased workforce at Fort Belvoir which is projected to have yet another major workforce increase in the 2025 time frame, and;
 - 5. WHEREAS:** Citizens have compiled and attached a detailed list of Safety Concerns and Proposed Improvements to aid in the addressing of the safety issues on the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.
- A. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations ask Supervisor Dan Storck, Delegate Paul Krizek, Delegate Kathy Tran, State Senator Scott Surovell, to encourage the Virginia Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation to conduct a safety study of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway at the earliest possible time, and;
- B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** When the safety study is completed that the results be shared with the Supervisor Storck, the MVCCA, and the citizens of the Mount Vernon District, and;
- C. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** After the completion of the safety study VDOT and FCDOT develop and implement a corrective action plan to improve safety for drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists on all of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

Citizen List of Safety Concerns & Proposed Improvements

Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (MVMH)

Richmond Hwy to the intersection with Mt. Vernon Hwy at George Washington's Estate
Approximately 3.4 miles

Citizen Safety Concerns:

Residents are being severely injured on and along this road: A tragic example is a recent accident when a middle school-age jogger while in a cross walk near Southwood Drive was hit by one car and then run over by a second. This accident triggered action and a demand to look at this entire road for ways to make it safer.

1. Dangerous pedestrian crosswalks across the MVMH at Southwood Drive, Forest Haven Drive, Grist Mill Park, Cherrytree Drive, and Patton Blvd all have safety issues:
 - a. Poor line of sight at Southwood Drive
 - b. Road markings inadequate or non-existent
 - c. No safety lighting
2. Increased and still increasing volume of traffic
 - a. Witnessed all day but severe level at morning and evening rush
 - i. Increased by years of gradual population growth
 - ii. Dramatic increase after BRAC and is due for another increase
 - iii. Increased recently when the National Geospatial Agency consolidated its several locations to move some 5,000 personnel to that location and many had come from locations in Maryland where they had their homes.
3. Speeding and tailgating
4. Distracted driving
 - a. Weaving and near head-on are often observed
5. Cut through traffic increases
 - a. Old Mill Road is a favorite
 - i. SB segment from the light on MVMH leading to Lukens Lane
 - ii. SB segment from the light near Grist Mill Park to Cooper Road
6. Passing on right in right turn only lanes
 - a. North Bound: at Patton Blvd
 - b. South Bound: before Peartree Landing
7. Bureaucracy is slow to respond: When VDOT, FCDOT and the Fairfax County Public Schools must work together to solve a safety problem. Example: When asked about a request for a marked cross walk that took eight months to succeed.

Action requested:

Conduct a “Traffic Safety Study” along this corridor including all of its intersections and crosswalks and then fund and implement needed improvements.

Proposed improvements:

1. Make the Pedestrian crossings safer (all need upgrades):
 - a. Install flashing pedestrian crossing signs to all:
 - i. Particularly at the Washington Mill Elementary School
 - b. Repair all line of sight issues especially at Southwood Drive
 - c. Improve street signage and markings
2. Lower the speed limit
3. Add traffic calming measures on cut through streets
4. Add more enforcement.
5. Remark and retime the MVMH intersection with Richmond Highway

Suggested specific improvements to improve traffic backups and safety concerns on Mount Vernon Memorial Highway UPON approach to Richmond Highway

Currently:

The two left lanes are designated left turn only onto Richmond Highway South towards Fort Belvoir.

The single right lane is (both) straight through the intersection onto Jeff Todd Way and right turns onto North Richmond Highway towards Alexandria.

Problem:

The right lane often backs up to a point that stops all traffic trying to approach Richmond Highway and at other even worse times the backup is to the Grist Mill. This in turn pushes drivers to take all sorts of unsafe maneuvers including driving through all of the local businesses ... one of which is a school. It also causes drivers to divert earlier and cut through neighborhoods using Old Mill Road.

Suggested Solution:

Keep far left lane as a left turn only.

Change center lane to straight through only (or) straight and left.

Change far right lane to right turn only.

Re-time lights as needed.

Unanimously approved by the MVCCA General Council 6.27.2018