



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony on Council Resolution No.141 - 2017
Resolution for the Closure of a former part of U.S. Route 1, commonly known as
“Deadman’s Curve.”

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: James M. Irvin, Director *JMI*
Department of Public Works

Date: November 6, 2017

The Department of Public Works has reviewed the proposed legislation concerning the closing of U.S. Route 1, formerly known as Dead Man’s Curve. In accordance with Section 18.204(g) of the Howard County Code, the department is required to develop a report of the closing of Dead Man’s Curve. The department’s findings are as follows:

1. The Department of Planning and Zoning has no objection to the resolution.
2. The Department of Public Works has reviewed the legislation and the following is provided:
 - a. State Highway Administration transferred the maintenance of Dead Man’s Curve as is to Howard County, Maryland in 1955. The Bureau of Highways was maintaining it until the mid-1980s when all the houses were abandoned. The County never had fee simple ownership to the road.
 - b. The County only has prescriptive rights to Dead Man’s Curve. The road closure was posted on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.
 - c. There are no public water or sewer facilities within Dead Man’s Road.
3. The Howard County Police Department has no objection to the resolution.
4. The Department of Fire and Rescue Services has no objection to the resolution.
5. Comments were requested from BGE and Verizon; however, no comments were received as of November 03, 2017.

In conclusion, the Department of Public Works concluded that there is no adverse impact on the traveling public if this roadway is closed.

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There will be no fiscal impact to the County.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me on Extension 4401.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Valdis Lazdins, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
John Butler, Chief, Department of Fire and Rescue Services
Gary Gardner, Chief, Department of Police
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