




Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement
Council Resolution 3-2019 - Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to waive the formal competitive bidding requirements of Title 4, Subtitle 1 of the Howard County Code in order to enter into an agreement with River Hill Square, LLC, to make certain road improvements at the intersection of Clarksville Pike (MD Route 108) and Sheppard Lane.

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

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

Date: December 27, 2018

The Department of Public Works has been designated as coordinator for the preparation of testimony authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to waive the formal competitive bidding requirements of Title 4, Subtitle 1 of the Howard County Code in order to enter into an agreement with River Hill Square, LLC, to make certain road improvements at the intersection of Clarksville Pike (MD Route 108) and Sheppard Lane.

Sheppard Lane at MD 108 is a signalized intersection with limited sight distance, owing to the steep grade and the acute angle entering the intersection from Sheppard Lane onto MD 108. Over the years State Highway Administration (SHA) has been able to make safety improvements, including the signal, turning lanes, and widening of the shoulder. Along with the difficult geometrics of the intersection, MD 108 is the limit of the Metropolitan District boundary making additional right-of-way to the North challenging, and on the opposing side of the intersection is a cemetery. The ideal intersection angle would be a perpendicular intersection. The Traffic Engineering Handbook (ITE, 1999) states that: "Crossing roadways should intersect at 90 degrees if possible, and not less than 75 degrees." It further states that: "Intersections with severe skew angles (e.g., 60 degrees or less) often experience operational or safety problems." This is a unique opportunity to obtain a better angled intersection and all the proposed improvements with the least inconvenience to the traveling public.

The purpose of this Council Resolution is to allow the developer to be the sole source contractor to make SHA and County road improvements at the same time as the frontage improvements to the River Hill Square development. The developer will coordinate with State and County agencies. Owing to the signalized intersection, funding will be provided by several Capital Projects, which are listed in the agreement.

The Developer is required to solicit at least three independent bids from construction contractors and submit the results to DPW Engineering for approval at the not to exceed Howard County portion amount of One Million Two Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand One Hundred Nine Dollars (\$1,296,109.00).

A representative of the department will be present at the hearing. If you require further information concerning this matter or have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.