



**Testimony of Charlotte Troup Leighton for
Evergreen Community in Cabin John, Montgomery County, Maryland
On the I-495-I-270 Managed Lanes Study Draft EIS
Given at the September 3, 2020 Virtual Public Hearing**

My name is Charlotte Troup Leighton (L-E-I-G-H-T-O-N). I live at 8005 Cypress Grove Lane in Cabin John, Montgomery County, Maryland. I am a member of the Friends of Moses Hall 88 Consulting Party for the Section 106 process. I am also here representing Evergreen, a neighborhood of 27 households immediately to the south of I-495 off Seven Locks Road in Cabin John. Many of my neighbors, as well as the historic African American Moses Hall/Morningstar Cemetery and Gibson Grove Church sites, abut I-495. We appreciate your careful consideration of my community's concerns, which will be further articulated in a formal written response.

Notwithstanding our overarching concerns about the negative impacts, fiscal viability, and short-sided approach of the Managed Lanes plan, our community has four primary areas of concern based on the material in the Draft EIS.

- First, stormwater and runoff. Our community experiences existing runoff and erosion conditions due to the highway. The expansion will create more impervious surface and more runoff. The DEIS does not provide information regarding the stormwater management strategy in our area. None of the typical sections shown explain what stormwater management approach would be used in conjunction with noise barriers. The stormwater management strategy must be further refined in the Final EIS and the approach that SHA takes must address the existing and future runoff.
- Second, we are glad to see noise barriers proposed for our community. These noise barriers are a necessary mitigation for the noise impacts we will experience and must be committed to in the Final EIS and Record of Decision. However, the placement and design of these noise barriers needs to be refined. The property impacts associated with the barriers, if placed as shown in Appendix D, would have major negative consequences for our community. The barriers should be placed in a way that avoids property impacts and minimizes tree impacts. Their design should be compatible with our residential community.
- Third, the construction of a flyover ramp from the managed lanes to MD 190 would create new visual impacts for our community and adjacent cultural resources. These visual impacts are not adequately evaluated in the Draft EIS. To reduce visual and other negative impacts to Evergreen and avoid the Moses Hall historic site, the flyover should be replaced with an at-grade access option, as is provided at Clara Barton Parkway.

- Fourth, the construction impacts associated with the Project are insufficiently and improperly defined. We are concerned that the Limit of Disturbance is too close to the proposed noise walls at this level of design. The impacts to Seven Locks Road from the reconstruction of the I-495 overpass are not defined. We are greatly worried about extended noise impacts as the project is built. These are real impacts for our community that will affect our quality of life.

We look forward to these issues being affirmatively addressed in the Final EIS. Thank you again for your time and consideration.