

The West Montgomery County Citizens Assoc.

Excerpt from the:

WEST MONTGOMERY COUNTY
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A top priority will be tracking developments of the Gaithersburg West master plan. We have attended several informational meetings with Johns Hopkins real estate folks and County officials, including Council President Phil Andrews. I can report to you that Mr. Andrews expressed similar concerns to our Board members who met with him. He does not support the sheer magnitude of what Johns Hopkins has in mind, and he agrees that 40,000 new jobs and 20 million square feet of office space, research facilities, and housing should be downscaled. Mr. Andrews also agrees that transit is an overriding concern, and is something that must be nailed down before any development begins.

WMCCA Board member Mike Denker and I attended the Planning Board's first work session on Gaithersburg West, and there was quite a bit of pushback from Planning Board members to staff regarding the same issues. Several Planning Board Commissioners flatly stated that without a commitment on major upgrades to highway interchanges from state transportation officials, this project should not move forward. Our roads simply cannot handle the density proposed by Johns Hopkins.