

# *Community Focus Group Newsletter* June, 2014

Rivers Edge, Riverside Estates, Riverside Outlook, River Glen & Holiday Hills

Preliminary design concepts for a community interchange with U. S. 29 will be on display during a two-hour, outdoor Open House, 5 - 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, at the corner of Rivers Edge Rd. and Longview Rd., at the community's entrance. In case of rain, plans are being made to hold the event at the nearby Church of God.

This is not a meeting, but an Open House where residents may stop by anytime on their way home from work or later to view the various design concepts and to record their preferences with members of the Focus Group.

The Open House was scheduled to provide local input to the State Highway Admin. (SHA) as it prepares for a Community Workshop, to be conducted on Phase II of the U.S. 29 interchange project in September, 2014. Based on this workshop, the final design phase of our community's interchange with U. S 29 is expected to begin this December. The construction phase not expected to start before Fall of 2018.

According to Ms. Marie Frances Guiteau, head of the SHA Highway Development Office, "the Rivers Edge Rd. traffic signal is no longer an option due to its history of safety issues."

Members of the Community Focus Group, headed by Ms. Stephanie Cates-Harman, first met with SHA officials on 4/22/14, to examine the State's preliminary concepts. They include four for a bridged interchange at Rivers Edge Rd. and a fifth for a bridged interchange at Vista Rd.

All five of the preliminary design concepts along with the minutes of the 4/22/14 meeting and the SHA's 5/21/14 response to the Community Focus Group's subsequent inquiries are posted on <http://www.riversedgecommunity.org/>

Residents not able to attend the Open House may submit their preferences in a signed letter, including their full names and address to: Don Witten, 10834 Hunting Lane, Columbia, MD 21044, by July 1, 2014. No e-mail responses will be accepted.

Community access to U. S. 29 became an issue when the SHA undertook a project to widen and resurface the four-mile section of northbound US 29 from the Middle Patuxent River to MD Route 175. The project will add a third lane to northbound US 29 and include construction noise abatement barriers where warranted. A 2010 technical analysis found that noise barriers were warranted for the Rivers Edge and Holiday Hills communities.

To join the community-wide e-mail notification system, residents can send a request to Sue McCarty at [sgmccarty@gmail.com](mailto:sgmccarty@gmail.com).

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Head, Community Focus Group