*WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, September 21, 2015, to receive a briefing from the State Highway Administration on Plans for the Beltway Interchange Ramps at Greenbelt Metro Station.*

*Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Jessica Bellah, Community Planner, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: John Webster, Consultant Project Engineer for the State Highway Administration; Sean Johnson, Team Leader for State Highway Administration Community Design Division; Kap Kapastin, Beltway Plaza; John Winfrey, Laura Kresser, Susan Stewart, and others.*

*Ms. Bellah explained that the State Highway Administration (SHA) has conducted traffic volume studies to evaluate what transportation improvements are needed to mitigate traffic associated with construction of transit oriented development and a relocated FBI Headquarters at the Greenbelt Station North Core site. She advised that the project study area included improvements along I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) from US 1 to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and improvements to the Greenbelt Metro Station Interchange.*

*Mr. Webster and Mr. Johnson provided a PowerPoint Presentation of the project. Mr. Webster reported the SHA team had identified the following three priority areas within the project:*

*Priority Area 1 – Greenbelt Metro Station to MD 201 (includes the Greenbelt Metro Station Interchange)*
*Priority Area 2 – US 1 to Greenbelt Metro Station*
*Priority Area 3 – MD 201 to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway*

*Mr. Webster advised that SHA developed traffic models based on the revised traffic volumes for the FBI building and based on Level of Service (LOS) and Travel Delay concluded that only Priority Area 1 may be required to obtain Federal Highway Administration approval. He reported that SHA will be moving forward on plans for Priority Area 1 only at this time.*

*Ms. Bellah said that staff has participated in meetings with SHA and other involved agencies as plans have progressed through the information gathering and design processes. She said they will continue to monitor development of the project scope, raise issues and brief Council as needed.*

*Mayor Jordan asked about future opportunities for the public to review and comment on the project. Mr. Webster said a meeting will be scheduled this fall and he will forward information when it is scheduled.*

*Mr. Johnson reviewed the confirmed and potential noise barrier locations for Priority Area 1. He said he expects a SHA decision regarding the potential noise barrier locations will be made*

*by November. Ms. Davis, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope stressed the need for noise barriers in all the areas due to the increased volume of traffic.*

*Kap Kapastin, Beltway Plaza, asked about sound level reduction from noise barriers. Mr. Johnson explained that the goal is to reduce noise by five to seven decibels for homes within 500 to 700 feet of the highway. He noted that homes closest to the barriers will have the maximum benefit of noise reduction levels.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Mach and Ms. Davis, Mr. Johnson said SHA offers several types of noise barrier finishes. He said they had just installed some noise barriers in Howard County and had received input from the County on the preferred finish.*

*Mr. Roberts said that SHA needs to change its policy regarding the use of herbicides and pesticides to remove plant growth by/on sound barriers and along highways. He reported there are many areas that have been poisoned and no longer have any plant growth. Mr. Johnson said he would relay the concern to SHA Vegetative Management Program. He added that excessive vegetation becomes problematic for SHA when noise barrier inspections are required.*

*Susan Stewart, 2-P Plateau Place, said she has seen lovely native plants planted along sound barriers.*

*Mr. McLaughlin provided an update received from Venu Nemani, Assistant District Engineer for SHA District 3, regarding concerns identified in a stakeholder meeting on June 10, 2015.*

*Mayor Jordan reported that the signal timing on Greenbelt Road seemed segmented. Mr. Webster said he will check with SHA District I Engineers.*

*Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, expressed concern with eroding concrete blocks on the Beltway Bridge over Greenbelt Road. Mr. Johnson said he would relay the concern to the SHA Office of Structures and request an inspection.*

*Council thanked the representatives for attending.*

*Informational Items*

*Ms. Davis mentioned the Drug Take Back Day at College Park on September 26, the City/Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Shredding Day on October 17 and the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club Immigration Forum on October 4.*

*Several other informational items were discussed.*

*The meeting ended at 10:00 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cindy Murray*
*City Clerk*

DRAFT