

August 9, 2011

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board  
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Improving US40: Middle River to MD43

Dear Sirs,

I applaud your efforts to improve the traffic and visual character of the subject section of Pulaski Highway, since it is a major part of the view of Baltimore County that many travelers experience.

However, it does not make sense to spend public money on such things as landscaping and other visual improvements if the adjacent businesses are allowed to continue placing illegal, usually ugly signs or products for sale within the highway right-of-way. I have included a half dozen photos taken today of the present condition of this stretch of roadway which depict serious violations of both state and county laws. (The edge of the r/w is generally the line of utility poles.)

In the past, I have contacted SHA concerning this situation further north along US40, but they have taken very little action. I have filed numerous complaints with Baltimore County Code Enforcement and, while they sometimes take action, it often takes multiple complaints, and the violations usually return within a few months. In other cases, the county inspectors deny knowing where the right-of-way is, and refuse to measure 75 feet from the center line, thus they take no action.

As a part of this project, there should be a commitment on the part of the SHA and Baltimore County to take proactive steps to ensure complete compliance with the existing laws prohibiting commercial use of the right-of-way as outlined in the MUTCD Section 1A.08 as adopted by Maryland and in Chapter 467 of the new State laws which specifically allow for immediate removal of these signs by state and county officials.

As you may recall, this 150-foot right-of-way was laid out in 1934, meaning that no adjacent business can claim "grandfathering" or any residual right to use this space. To assist in enforcement, "edge of r/w" markers should be prominently placed along this stretch of road.

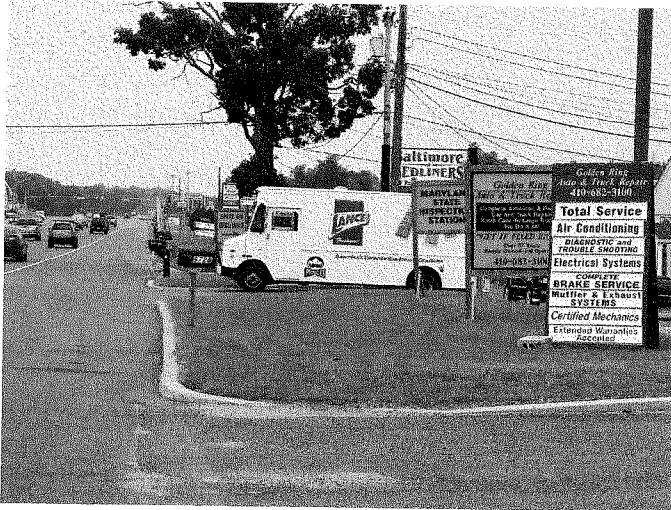
Thanks for your consideration of my comments.

Regards



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US 40 (Pulaski Highway) between Mohrs Rd and Middle River Rd