

Many of you asked for an update regarding the meeting with MTA project manager Rick Kiegel at my house on Monday. Here are the highlights:

- 35 people attended, including a reporter from the Town Courier
- The alignment is, in a word unacceptable, particularly for those Upshire Circle homes that back-up to the bus lanes
- The image on the website is erroneous. There is no grassy median and no sidewalk between said backyards and bus lanes.
- The bus lanes will come right up next to an existing wooden fence. The fence will be knocked down during construction and replaced. A jersey barrier will reside on the other side of the fence.
- There is a triangle totaling about 10 square feet that will need to be acquired to implement this alignment. The triangle is owned by the WW HOA. Tim, maybe you guys can look into this wedge and find out what kind of bargaining power it gives us.
- A sound wall is still being considered.
- We walked the highway with Kiegel and he agreed that the sound was pretty overwhelming. His segment engineer, Denny, brought her tape measure and measured off the 50 feet that the bus lanes require.
- Anywhere from many to most trees will be removed. Where earth remains, they will be replaced with immature species.
- The CCT will ride 30 feet from the outermost WW Park nature trail.
- Construction will begin in 2018 if everything moves like clockwork; expect a year to complete our segment. If Hopkins "throws money at this," it may accelerate the process.
- I am now on the Area 2 Workgroup, which meets every few months, so I can stay apprised of what's going on. Tami Mensch of upper Midsummer Circle is also on the Workgroup.
- Look for news of a September meeting with the MTA at our clubhouse.
- Lakelands and Kentlands are equally upset at how the CCT, which will run every 3 minutes, will box us in, strip away the green, add noise and air pollution.

Lisa Cline
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