Introduced By: Councilmembers Daniels-Cohen, Grimes, and Male

RESOLUTION #2012 - xx

Takoma Junction Crosswalk and Signalization

WHEREAS,   the Council established a Takoma Junction Task Force and appointed members, asking the Task Force, among its primary purposes, to create work plans addressing pedestrian safety concerns.

WHEREAS,   the Takoma Junction Task Force, in its March 5, 2012 presentation of priorities to the City Council, recommended that the City "work with State Highway Administration to install a new crosswalk between the C1 parcel and the Grant-Carroll intersection; to finish optimizing the timing, phasing, and sequencing of the three traffic signals; and to upgrade the software and hardware of the three traffic signals so that a transfer of responsibility to Montgomery County can be accomplished." (Ref. http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2012/030512-4.pdf)

WHEREAS,   residents who attended and testified at the January 17, 2012 City Council meeting, to support engagement of a crossing guard for the current two-stage crossing via the area fronting BY Morrison Park, also spoke in favor of an additional "one-stage" crossing at Grant Avenue. (Ref http://takomapark.granicus.com/MinutesViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=907)

WHEREAS,   an informal working group of Takoma Park residents, including elected officials, on April 10, 2010 recommended to the City Council a direct crosswalk at Grant Avenue to the City-owned lot and called for attention to pedestrian and traffic signals. (Ref http://takomajunction.org/TakomaJunctionGroupRecommendationstoCityCouncil-2010Apr20.pdf)

WHEREAS,   as of April 14, 2012, a petition to "Add 10 seconds to the pedestrian crossing at Takoma Junction" has garnered 234 signatures. The petition states, "The current two-stage crossing unfairly penalizes pedestrians by forcing them to wait through two traffic cycles to cross the streets." (Ref. http://www.change.org/petitions/governor-of-maryland-add-10-seconds-to-the-pedestrian-crossing-at-takoma-junction-2)

WHEREAS,   the City of Takoma Park's council-appointed Task Force on the Environment has recommended Takoma Junction improvements including adjustment of signal timing.

WHEREAS,   the City of Takoma Park has, in recent years, worked with the SHA to install pedestrian cross-walks in locations near Takoma Junction that include Carroll Avenue (State Route 195) near the intersection with Cedar Avenue.

WHEREAS,   the Council wishes to implement near-term Takoma Junction improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1)   The City of Takoma Park requests that the State Highway Administration install a pedestrian crosswalk stretching across Carroll Avenue/Route 410 at Grant Avenue as soon as practical and in all events, by December 31, 2012.

2)   The City of Takoma Park requests that the State Highway Administration provide information on the current timing, phasing, and sequencing of Takoma Junction traffic signals and consult and notify the City when any signal changes are planned.

3)   The City of Takoma Park requests that the State Highway Administration immediately complete optimization of the timing, phasing, and sequencing of Takoma Junction traffic signals in conformance with community requests for additional pedestrian-crossing time, adequate for a typical person to safely cross between the TPSS Co-op and 7304 Carroll Avenue in one signal cycle.

4)   The City of Takoma Park requests that PEPCO expedite power upgrades in the Takoma Junction area that would enable new vehicle detection and traffic measurement and control devices to be placed in operation.

5)   The Council of the City of Takoma Park directs the City Administration to take the lead on all steps resolved here, communicating and mediating requests to the SHA and PEPCO and diligently following up until resolution, regularly informing the council and the public of progress and impediments and enlisting the aid of the council to overcome obstacles.

ADOPTED THIS xx DAY OF APRIL, 2012.

ATTEST:

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Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk