



# Sandy Spring-Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium PreserveAshton.net

SSARPC, Post Office Box 518, Ashton, MD 20861

## **Please Include Road Improvements at Route 108 and New Hampshire Avenue In Your State Transportation Participation Project**

November 2, 2008

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Ave., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council Members:

The State Highway Administration has eliminated the funding for road improvements at the intersection of Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) and New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) in Ashton. We implore the Council to fund these improvements as part of its State Transportation Participation Project.

The intersection is unsafe. There have been a number of serious accidents and people crossing the roads fear for their lives. Most of these problems have been caused by the increased traffic over the past few years. During rush hour the backup at the intersection is intolerable and the length of the rush hour has increased greatly. Both residents and commuters have difficulty traveling at those times.

The Planning Board recently approved the design for a rural shopping area, Ashton Meeting Place, at the intersection. It took years for the Planning Board to approve the design. The community, including many volunteers in the Sandy Spring Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium (SSARPC), worked hundreds of unpaid hours to insure that the proposed development conformed to the Sandy-Spring Ashton Master Plan. The result was a design for a development that will fit well into our rural area. The road improvements at the intersection are a condition of the approval. The community is looking forward to having a safer and less congested intersection, friendly to pedestrians, and to using the services brought by Ashton Meeting Place. Many trips to Olney and Cloverly for services will be shortened.

We have also been informed that approval of several other projects in the Sandy Spring-Ashton area is likely to be contingent on the intersection improvements.

Please fund the MD 108 and MD 650 intersection improvements in the State Transportation Participation Project.

If we can provide you with any more information, please contact Michelle Layton at 301-570-0521 or [feedback@ssarpc.org](mailto:feedback@ssarpc.org) or [mull@earthlink.com](mailto:mull@earthlink.com). More information about SSARPC and our several projects, including Ashton Meeting Place, can be found at [www.ssarpc.org](http://www.ssarpc.org).

Sincerely,

Michelle Layton, Co-Chair

Donna Selden, Co-Chair

cc: Phil Andrews, Council Member, Vice President  
Roger Berliner, Council Member  
Marc Elrich, Council Member  
Valerie Ervin, Council Member  
Nancy Floreen, Council Member  
Royce Hanson, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Anne Kaiser, State Delegate  
Rona Kramer, State Senator  
Mike Knapp, Council Member, President  
George Leventhal, Council Member  
Karen Montgomery, State Delegate  
Fred Nichols, Nichols Development Inc.  
Don Praisner, Council Member  
Joshua Sloan, Staff, Park and Planning  
Herman Taylor, State Delegate  
Duchy Trachtenberberg, Council Member