

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Message from Councilman Marks



After Nearly a Decade, Kingsville “Land Swap” Now Complete

At its meeting on December 18th, the Baltimore County Council approved the acquisition of 36 acres of land on Raphel Road in the Kingsville area from the Maryland Transportation Authority, along with a \$2.75 million contribution from the state. In return, the county will convey 25 acres to the state along Interstate-95. The land swap moves a proposed Maryland Transportation Authority maintenance facility next to Interstate-95 and away from the rural neighborhoods of Upper Falls and Bradshaw. It’s a “win-win” for everyone involved.

With this final approval of land by Baltimore County, we have put to rest any question that the state would be building a maintenance facility in the heart of the Kingsville area, with noisy trucks ruining its quality of life. With the acquisition of the 36 acres, the size of Mount Vista Park will grow to 147 acres—plus the county is receiving money to improve the park in the future.

I would like to thank County Executive Olszewski and his senior staff for their support in Baltimore County, as well as the leadership of the Maryland Transportation Authority, including former Executive Secretary Jim Ports, for all their help. Our state legislators—Senator J.B. Jennings and Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga—have been uniformly supportive.

Having worked on this project for nearly a decade, I can say—without a doubt—that this is an example of how government should work—across levels of government and across party lines.

Councilman David Marks

Serving the Eastside: Carney, Perry Hall, Kingsville, White Marsh, Chase, Bowleys Quarters, and Middle River

In this Issue

- ▶ **Mohrs Lane Bridge Advances**
- ▶ **County Awards \$90,000 for Bowleys Quarters Hall Renovations**
- ▶ **Councilman Marks Votes for a Strong Inspector General**
- ▶ **Traffic Calming Implemented on Necker Avenue**
- ▶ **County Council to Consider New Master Plan**
- ▶ **Baltimore County Police Graduate 168th Recruit Class**

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Mohrs Lane Bridge Advances

Construction of the Mohrs Lane Bridge has been a priority for Councilman Marks since he was elected to serve the White Marsh area. The original bridge was closed in 2007 due to structural deficiency, and it was removed in 2011. Since then, the county has been designing a replacement and negotiating with the impacted railroad company, a tedious process due to wetlands.

The new bridge will consist of three 12-foot lanes with two 8-foot shoulders. Improvements to Mohrs Lane will extend for about 950 linear feet towards Philadelphia Road along the western approach, and 300 linear feet towards Pulaski Highway along the eastern approach. The project will not require a detour as Mohrs Lane has been closed since 2007, but once reopened, this route will significantly improve mobility in the White Marsh area,

The county anticipates completing the design, right-of-way acquisition, environmental clearances, and advertising for construction in late 2024 or early 2025. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2025, with a completion date of 2027.

Councilman Marks thanks County Executive Olszewski and the Department of Public Works and Transportation for their assistance. The Mohrs Lane Bridge, along with the traffic circle at Honeygo Boulevard and Cross Road, are two significant projects that will greatly improve mobility and quality of life in eastern Baltimore County.

County Awards \$90,000 for Bowleys Quarters Hall Renovations

Baltimore County has awarded \$90,000 to replace the 30-year-old roof, update siding, and resurface the driveway at the Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association hall. The hall is located at 1124 Bowleys Quarters Road. Councilman Marks thanks County Executive Olszewski, the Department of Planning, and the BQIA leadership—especially Sue O'Hare, Joanne and Jim Hock—for all their support and work in getting this done.

Since 1938, the Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association has served as a watchdog for growth in that community. The BQIA hosts numerous civic events and service activities throughout the year. For more information, visit bqia.org.



Councilman Marks Votes for a Strong Inspector General

The Baltimore County Inspector General investigates waste, fraud, and abuse. Councilman Marks supported the creation of an Inspector General years before it was formally established. A blue-ribbon commission recently evaluated the performance of the office, and the administration offered legislation to enshrine this office in the county charter.

At the Baltimore County Council meeting on December 18th, Councilman Marks voted against all amendments to the administration's legislation. Should further changes be needed, Councilman Marks looks forward to separate legislation developed after discussions with the administration, Inspector General, other stakeholders, and the public.

Traffic Calming Implemented on Necker Avenue

Baltimore County has built three new speed bumps on Necker Avenue in Perry Hall, the result of an engineering review and a petition that garnered necessary signatures from nearby residents. To learn more about the traffic calming program, visit [here](#).

County Council to Consider New Master Plan

The Master Plan is a long-range planning document that forecasts future development in Baltimore County. The 2030 draft is available [here](#). The County Council has scheduled two public hearings on the proposed Master Plan on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6 p.m. and on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 3 p.m., both times in the Council Chambers (400 Washington Avenue in Towson). The public will have the opportunity to testify virtually. For more information, visit [here](#).

Baltimore County Police Graduate 168th Recruit Class

Councilman Marks congratulates the 168th Baltimore County Police Department recruit class—and thanks all the instructors and staff, seen here.

