

On the sector study:

As a relatively new resident of the area, I am perhaps slightly less worked up about the development proposed in the study. However, I am also concerned. It seems unfortunate to me that the sector study felt more geared toward capturing the needs of developers who want the development than the residents who live here. It feels much more like a developer driven study than a constituent focused study, despite the opportunities for resident input and feedback that have been made available. It felt like residents were only given the chance to voice their preferences between several different development options and not afforded the chance to say we don't want any of the options. It would be sad to see the Forest Drive sector turned into one long Annapolis Town Center. It would change the whole character of the area into a big retail shopping and dining destination. I also don't buy into the argument of providing closer services so that people don't have to get into their cars to travel as far. I believe that fails to recognize that the new development will attract more visitors from outside the area as well, and the only people who will avoid getting in their cars are likely to be the ones living above the shops and restaurants that are part of the development.

Recognizing that some development is healthy and inevitable, perhaps there will be measures we can take to control and constrain it. Limit the "town center" type development to one specific area of the sector. Enforce requirements that developers provide funding for the additional infrastructure and services that will be required based on the totality of all development and not just their small portion, enforce responsible energy choices like solar on new buildings and charging stations for electric cars, require financial contribution to mitigate the impact that development will have on schools, fire and emergency services, as well as healthcare. Keep new development to a uniform look so that is reflective of the character of the area and not a patchwork or an eyesore (see the remodeled office/retail complex in gun metal gray on the north side of Forest Drive across from the Safeway I believe). Make sure that steps are taken to make these areas reachable by other means than car - add bus/shuttle routes, bike lanes, implement bike shares and safe travel lanes for scooters, etc. Have any on-street parking and bus stops in cutouts out of travel lanes. Line the sidewalks with trees and lamp posts to make it more appealing for pedestrians. Sure, if you left it to me, I might have a trolley line running on rails up and down the middle of Forest Drive, but I don't want to get to the ferris wheel ideas so soon.

I don't know if any of that was helpful or if it made any sense, but I appreciate the chance to give some feedback.

On other ideas:

Claire has listened to me babble on about these things, and she felt that you needed to share in her pain. Blame her. She has had to put up with my ranting about building a city marina with floating docks at the end of Ego Alley facing into the harbor, and of

ripping out all the Dock Street parking to make a pedestrian park in the summer that could convert to an ice skating rink in the winter. Not to mention my belief that building pumping stations to attack nuisance flooding feels like a costly short-term band aid on a problem that is only going to worsen with time and that the water is going to come anyway so we need to let it come and control and direct it. But this is about Ward 7 so...

What should we do with the area of lower Forest Drive heading east into Bay Ridge Road and down to Arundel on the Bay? Here are some pie in the sky ideas I dream about after the Jack Daniels has mellowed me a bit. These things would likely require plenty of public-private cooperation. My aim would be to celebrate the maritime traditions of the area as well as the diversity of the population. Annapolis feels to me like it is losing touch with some of its maritime and agricultural roots, especially with places like the Market House being transformed from a historic building where fishermen sold their catch to a yuppie food court. Don't take that as being too harsh a judgment, since I actually feel like the new Market House is a rather nice place to have a drink and a meal while hanging out near the harbor.

So in my vision of this section of Ward 7 here are some things I might like to see, in no particular order.

- Turn the intersection of Bay Ridge/Forest Drive into a traffic circle like the one at Westgate Circle at the end of West Street. Put a sculpture on the island in the middle that commemorates the maritime industry (there is a very nice sculpture on the island in Westgate Circle). Install pedestrian crossings like those on Westgate Circle to make it more easily and safely crossed for people on foot. I might even be tempted to bookend the circle with another traffic circle at the intersection of Forest and Spa Road containing another sculpture and name the whole strip the Maritime Corridor. A traffic circle at that Spa Road intersection might even address some of the problems that Providence Point is going to cause for people who want to get out to the left onto Forest. As an aside, we need to get people educated about actually *using* the provided crosswalks - that Forest/Bay Ridge Ave intersection often feels more dangerous to me because people sometimes fail to walk the extra 25 yards to the corner before darting into traffic. Just a personal peeve.
- Hold an annual Ward 7 block party. Set up tents, food trucks and music in the Bay Forest Shopping Center parking lot. There is an enormous amount of space that sits empty there 90% of the time. Let's put it to good use.
- Speaking of that empty parking lot space, what would it take to get a farmer's market/open air fish market set up there periodically? Giant is about to get competition from Lidle, so maybe having a farmer's market out front would not be so problematic for them, especially if it brought people closer to their store after buying some home grown produce out front to get the other things they

need. Maybe the owners of Annapolis Seafood market could be convinced to put out an open air market a couple of times per month. Wouldn't it be a great experience to relive that historical Market House experience in some way with an open air market? Or make it more permanent with a year round enclosure, since there seems to be plenty of unused space in that lot anyway.

- In keeping with the well-dressed walkways in the town center, we need to line our road here with some attractive lamp posts and sidewalk trees. How about some benches and trash receptacles? Sidewalks and bike lanes should run continuously and not suddenly come to a stop.
- Do we honestly need two gas stations, two car washes, and two grocery stores all within a block of each other? I'm all for competition and free markets, but...
- Can we clean up some of the abandoned property along Bay Ridge? Can the county and city work together to condemn those properties and make that happen? We recently had a fire in one abandoned home that closed down Bay Ridge Road completely for hours. These properties represent a safety hazard as well as detracting from the area.
- We need some arts and culture and entertainment in this ward. We have to travel to Harbour Center or the mall to catch a movie, but I don't see us building a movie theater here any time soon. What about a music venue? This ward is the home of Carr's Beach, and the mayor even stood in our living room and recognized that. Can't we convince the Rams Head folks to open a music venue on this side of town? We'll call it the Rams Head Boat Shed since we need a catchy name. I'd probably build it instead of the Lidle, but that's just me. Maybe we could confiscate the Quantum Sails building, but that kills my commemoration of the maritime industry by evicting the maritime industry. I would have put it in the old Eastport movie theater space, but that ship has sailed. Probably the wrong ward anyway...The summer sunset concerts in Ellen Moyer Park were a good first step, but parking is a big issue down there.
- Speaking of maritime history, it has been fantastic to see the expansion of the maritime museum to the Ellen Moyer park. I'd love to see them expand their presence there even further with public education events and permanent exhibits. We need some signage along Bay Ridge and Forest to raise awareness and bring in visitors.
- Expand the water taxi service on Back Creek to better service the residents of ward 7. I'd probably suggest that for all of Annapolis anyway. With slightly more substantial boats running on predictable schedules making planned stops at known locations, people will have one more way to avoid using their cars to get into town. I might even commute to work on one. Better water taxi service could also extend to the other side of the Severn near the Severn Inn. Put a "park and boat" there to help people avoid bringing their cars into town from that direction. Go up Weems Creek and add a stop. Go down river to Lake Ogleton. Let's use our waters to our advantage to move people and give them a pleasant experience in the process.

- Again, let's promote the maritime heritage of the area. We need historic signage and information. Let's have a small visitors center. We have two very large retail maritime businesses in our ward, West Marine and Fawcett's, not to mention a dizzying number of boating service providers and marinas. How can those businesses contribute? How can they benefit?
- Find a home for the sailing hall of fame along Back Creek or in the ward somewhere. Let's not lose this to another town. What are our opportunities for finding space near the end of Edgewood Road? Perhaps it would be better to have a sailing hall of fame than some of the other developments in the works.

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