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Jason M. Schwier
Chair, Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee

August 2, 2023

Ms. Jenny Jarkowski
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Comments on Odenton Parking Garage Modification to impact a wetland buffer

Dear Ms. Jarkowski:

This letter constitutes a response by the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) to a request made and presented to the committee on July 25, 2023 regarding a request for a modification to the Anne Arundel County Code regarding construction impacts to a wetland buffer. As the modification request pertains to the County Code and not the Odenton Town Center Master Plan, the request is beyond the purview of the OTCAC. The Committee would like to express its continued support for the Odenton Parking Garage proposed to be constructed at the MARC Station located southeast of the intersection of MD-175 and Town Center Boulevard.

The presentation outlined how the wetland buffer will be impacted by the equipment necessary to construct the parking garage. The wetland buffer is not located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and approximately 3,150 square feet of the buffer will be impacted in three separate zones. Most of the impacted areas will return to vegetation after construction is complete, but there will be permanent impacts within two of the zones due to the probable removal of specimen trees in one zone and the proximity of the buffer to an access road in a second zone.

Community members expressed their support for the modification request due to the specimen trees' rating of "fair condition" and the low likelihood of surviving critical root zone disturbance or the stress of moving them. OTCAC members provided historical context that this wetland was originally a stormwater management area that was converted to a wetland. Additionally, the current wetland serves as a drainage area for the parking lot, which likely is impacting the land far more than the physical impacts to the buffer itself.

While the OTCAC does not take a formal stance with respect to the modification request, the Committee encourages the County to have the parking deck reach formal construction and eventual completion. Committee members appreciate the opportunity to participate in the development process. Please let us know if you need further information or have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason M. Schwier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Jason M. Schwier, Chair
Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee