



ROBERT G. CASSILLY

Harford County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 23, 2024

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Harford's Cassilly Administration Denies Request to Close Joppa Road at Railroad Crossing Due to Public Safety Concerns

BEL AIR, Md., (Feb. 23, 2024) - Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly on Thursday denied a request by Maryland Transportation Authority on behalf of CSX rail service to close Joppa Road on both sides of its railroad crossing in Joppa. The request was denied after investigations by the administration found that a closure of the crossing would slow emergency vehicle response times and impede general traffic circulation in the area.

A copy of the county executive's letter to MDTA is attached.

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ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 22, 2024

Sushmita Mitra, PE, PTOE, PMP

Director of Engineering

Maryland Transportation Authority

2310 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

RE: Petition to Close Joppa Road (CO 505) in Joppa, Harford County, Maryland

Dear Ms. Mitra,

My administration received MDTA's request to close Joppa Road to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on both sides of the existing CSXT crossing 140815L. In response, we initiated our Road Closing Committee protocols, including scheduling a public hearing, and began our internal investigations.

During these investigations, our Department of Emergency Services reported that this closure will increase emergency response times in the vicinity and negatively affect public service. Our Department of Public Works reported that the proposed closure will also adversely impact traffic circulation in the area.

Due to the significant negative impacts on public safety, Harford County is denying this road closure request. We are canceling the public hearing, as it is no longer necessary, and our process is hereby concluded.

Respectfully,

Robert G. Cassilly

Robert G. Cassilly

Harford County Executive

cc: Joseph Siemek, PE

Steven Walsh, PE

Glen Hebel, PE

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