



Office of the Planning Director
Prince George's County Planning Department

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
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301-952-3595

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Jaqueline E. Goodall
Mayor
Town of Forest Heights
Municipal Building
5508 Arapahoe Drive
Forest Heights, MD 20745

**RE: Town of Forest Heights - Digital Sign
(MR-1327A)**

Dear Mayor Goodall:

Prince George's County Planning Department staff appreciates the opportunity to respond to your request for comments on the digital sign to be placed on Indian Head Highway (MD 210), at the northwestern quadrant of the intersection with Seneca Drive. The proposed sign is a 24-square-foot sign within a black sign cabinet, mounted upon two, two-foot tall posts. It features a single-sided TekStar full-color design, and horizontal lamp illumination with electronic ballasts. We would like to submit comments pertaining to transportation and urban design aspects of the project.

The Urban Design Section of the Development Review Division recommends design features that include a masonry sign base with plantings to provide an appropriate gateway into the Town of Forest Heights. Enclosed is a memorandum that includes their full evaluation and comments.

To determine if an access permit is required, or if State Highway Administration (SHA) has any other requirements regarding signage along a state road, the Transportation Planning Section recommends that you contact SHA, if you have not already done so.

Since the Mandatory Referral process does not replace any permit approval process, we also recommend that you contact John Linkins in the Development Review Division, Permit Review Section, at 301-952-3672 to determine if a permit is required for this sign. If a permit is required, this letter may be submitted with your sign permit application to indicate that this project was reviewed by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of the Mandatory Referral review process.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. If you should have any additional questions or need further information, please contact Fatimah Hasan, Planner Coordinator, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-3580 or via email at Fatimah.Hasan@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,

Fern V. Piret
Planning Director

Enclosure

- c: Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Fatimah Hasan, Planner Coordinator, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Christine Osei, Mandatory Referral Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Meika Fields, Senior Planner, Urban Design Section, Development Review Division
Vern Haefele, Administrator, Town of Forest Heights
Redis C. Floyd, Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County Council



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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January 28, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fatimah Hasan, Planner Coordinator
Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning

VIA: Ruth Grover, Planner Coordinator, Urban Design Section

FROM: Meika Fields, Senior Planner, Urban Design Section

SUBJECT: Mandatory Referral MR-1327A
Digital Sign - Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

The Urban Design Section is in receipt of materials provided in support of a digital sign for the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland. The proposal is for a 24-square-foot sign within a black sign cabinet, mounted upon two, two-foot-tall posts. The sign is proposed at the northwestern quadrant of the intersection of Indian Head Highway (MD 210) with Seneca Drive. Project information was sent to us as part of the Mandatory Referral Review Process pursuant to Maryland Annotated Code, Article 28, Section 7-112 and Section 27-294 of the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance.

Signage can create a gateway into a community, add to its sense of place, and foster civic pride. The Urban Design Section believes that the signage proposal would be enhanced through the provision of an attractive and durable masonry sign base. The area around the sign could be further improved through the use of decorative plantings, including low evergreen shrubs to provide year-round enhancement and seasonal planting beds. With these modifications the sign could become a gateway into the Town of Forest Heights.

