



May 1, 2022

To the City Council and Staff of Alexandria:

The City has invited comments on the Mount Vernon Avenue corridor. As part of the planned redesign, how about creating a small roundabout at the awkward and unattractive intersection of Glebe and Mount Vernon, as well as at other traffic crossings in our City?

Modern roundabouts don't require stop signs or red lights and don't require cars to brake or idle, so they don't burn as much fuel. In terms of safety and efficiency of operation, the modern roundabout has little resemblance to traffic rotaries, like DuPont Circle across the river in D.C. Modern roundabouts are relatively small and slow, while the old, large traffic rotaries are large, fast, and dangerous.

Example of Dog Bone Roundabout:



Roundabouts also may be objects of beauty and are friendlier to pedestrians and cyclists. In multiple studies, roundabouts reduced serious crashes by 50 to 90 percent compared to traffic signals. Left turns, especially, are more dangerous to both drivers and pedestrians at traditional traffic signals. A roundabout would remove the rushed left turns to make the light here that have caused the fatalities and injuries at this intersection, since the design of a modern roundabout handles left turns more safely and with less delay than any other type of traffic intersection design. The so called Dog Bone roundabout can be challenging



for vision impaired pedestrians but using modified rapid flashing beacon like those on Seminary Road with audible pedestrian signals seems to help tremendously.

We are aware of preliminary plans to build a 500+ facility of Affordable Housing apartments very close to this intersection. If such an affordable housing project is developed more people will be on the street endeavoring to cross Glebe and/or Mount Vernon. This will exasperate risks to more pedestrians at an already dangerous intersection if action is not taken. The City can save lives and reduce congestion by adopting a modern roundabout for the intersection as part of the Mount Vernon Avenue North Complete Streets Project. We respectfully ask that the City Street Planners seriously consider the above option.

Sincerely,

Mike Doyle

On behalf of Alexandria Families for Safe Streets' Board of Directors

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