

**(PROPOSED) MVCCA Resolution Traffic Committee 2018-4 in support of increasing safety on Span of
State Route 235 From Jeff Todd Way to Mount Vernon Traffic Circle**

Whereas, State Route 235 (SR 235), also known as “Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, is a primary state highway in the Commonwealth of Virginia and runs 5.05 miles between intersections with U.S. Route 1 (US 1) in Fort Belvoir and Hybla Valley,

Whereas, SR 235, most proximate to US 1 and Jeff Todd Way, heads southeast as Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, a two-lane controlled-access highway, passes a recreation of George Washington's Gristmill, crosses Dogue Creek, and passes an entrance to Fort Belvoir United States Army Installation, curves to the northeast and intersects Old Mill Road and Ferry Landing Road, both part of SR 623 (an oblique intersection just west of Fairfax County Grist Mill Park, continues east, curving toward the south and intersects another Old Mill Road and State Route (SR 623), now named Old Mount Vernon Road, before reaching the Mount Vernon Estate, a National Historic Landmark, continues east as George Washington Memorial Parkway, then turns north onto Mount Vernon Highway, a two-lane highway without access controls that passes through the Mount Vernon Community, passes Mount Vernon High School and meets SR 623 (Old Mount Vernon Road) on a tangent before reaching its northern terminus at US 1 (Richmond Highway) in Hybla Valley,

Whereas, SR 235 was originally designated as a state highway in 1933, as a renumbering of VA 710 and VA 725,

Whereas, the population of Fairfax County in 1930 is estimated to have been 30,000, whereas the population in 2015 is estimated at 1,142,234,

Whereas, as a result of the continued residential, suburban development in the neighborhoods proximate to SR 235 in the last 85 years, numerous pedestrian crosswalks have been provided for community member use, but with poor visibility and warning signs in the span of SR 235 between the Jeff Todd Way/US 1 intersection and Old Mount Vernon Road intersection,

Whereas, the posted speed limit on the span of SR 235 between the Jeff Todd Way/US 1 intersection and Old Mount Vernon Road intersection is 45 mph,

Whereas, there appears to be significant confusion over the right-of-way with regards to pedestrians in crosswalks in a 45 mph zone under Virginia law,

Whereas, the Mount Vernon community has seen a significant increase in home building over the last ten years, including local neighborhood developments at Ferry Landing Ct, Forrest Haven Drive, Ferry Hall Ct, Brambly St, and Fairfax St, thereby further increasing the population density in the MVCA community, in particular,

Whereas, the traffic volumes on the span of SR 235, from the Jeff Todd Way intersection at US 1 to the Mount Vernon traffic circle, have increased with the expansion of the Fort Belvoir United States Army Installation, the continued economic development of the Mount Vernon Estate, and the building of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington,

Whereas, Fairfax County continues to support the concept of maintaining a two-lane road through the neighborhoods of the Mount Vernon Community so as to encourage “commuter” traffic along US 1, rather than this span of SR 235, to fully utilize the County’s newly proposed Embark Richmond Highway (Plan Amendment 2015-IV-MV1),

Whereas, the Mount Vernon community includes the highly utilized Fairfax County Grist Mill Park, which is located immediately adjacent to this span of SR 235, that Park including a playground and multiple sports fields at which various community organizations, e.g., the Gunston Soccer Club, practice and compete,

Whereas, the Fairfax County designated parking allocation for Grist Mill Park is of such a size that athletes, siblings and parents are routinely forced to park on the shoulder of this two-lane span of SR 235 as overflow parking, thereby, further reducing the already limited visibility and increasing the presence of pedestrians along this span of SR 235,

Whereas, the proximate neighborhoods included in the Mount Vernon community include resident children on the North Side of SR 235, who attend the Washington Mill Elementary School located on the South side of SR 235, and

Whereas, there appears to have been an increase in traffic accidents and pedestrian incidents along this span of SR 235, including the recent traffic accident involving a 15 year old jogger who was hit, and run over, by two automobiles, while in a crosswalk, and air lifted to the local hospital with significant injuries,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations calls upon our Supervisors to encourage the Virginia Department of Transportation to formally study, publically report upon and improve the safety to both pedestrians and automobile drivers and passengers along the span of SR 235 between the Jeff Todd Way/US 1 intersection and Old Mount Vernon Road intersection.