

January 7, 2026

To: Departments of Public Works, Transportation, and Planning
City of Baltimore

From: Steven Lee,
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Re: Prospect Circle - Gutter, Curb & Sidewalk Re-build

Please inform of what procedure I must go through to get the City to re-design and construct the cobblestone gutter, curb, and sidewalk of historic Prospect Circle, in Windsor Hills. The City last rebuilt the Prospect Circle roadway with its cobblestone gutter in the mid-1990s. However, that cobblestone gutter was dug-up in the course of the 2022/2023 BGE Pipeline Project here. The replacement gutter installation by BGE, was very poorly designed and constructed, not nearly of the professional quality, effectiveness, or sustainability of the former 30-year-old City gutter.

As Prospect Circle is a hillside road, effectual gutter functioning is critical to direct and keep stormwater run-off away from the residences along it; and particularly the 4509 property which rests at the bottom of the hill, incurring the greatest stormwater run-off impacts. I have resided at the 4509 Prospect Circle property since 1989, but it has only been over the past three years that I have had the extensive and continuing stormwater water run-off damage, resultant from the BGE installed cobblestone gutter. Its very shallow swale, uneven lay of cobblestone, and unpractical dry-lay filler material, rendered this gutter relatively ineffectual and unsustainable, causing accumulative water damage towards the structural, environmental and aesthetic integrity of my historic property, in which I have invested over three decades of costs and labor to maintain.

At the very least the Prospect Circle gutter must be responsibly, effectively, rebuilt. But perhaps this is a good opportunity to consider a more updated design/construct for the hillside street's sidewalk/curb/gutter system:

- Neighborhood history tells that the Circle's sidewalk is at least 50 years old. Crude and uneven in places, it could definitely use a re-build.
- A raised cobblestone curb, instead of the present roll-over curb, would be a far more superior and effective design for the lower segment of the Circle. Currently it is only the upper-half of Prospect Circle that does have a raised curb; but not the Circle's lower half, where it is most crucially needed.
- With a raised curb – redesign and installation of an effective, professionally laid cobblestone gutter, would better serve.
- Installation of a historical-style directional street sign at the juncture of Prospect Circle and Hillside Drive. (This would be a big help in keeping drivers from constantly mistakenly going down the Hillside Drive utility access road, instead of turning to continue up Prospect Circle as they mean to go.)

Please, inform of how I may be able to bring this Prospect Circle project to the City's attention, and included in its plans for development. Can we schedule a meet to discuss the Circle? It is hoped that the City shares in the goal of improving and upgrading our streets and neighborhoods, and not to have our infrastructure projects leave them damaged, degraded and devalued.

The consideration is appreciated.

Best regards,

