

Town Commissioners of Bel Air
Agenda
December 16, 2024

Resolution 1243-24

Request to remove the left turn from North Main Street and East Gordon Street

RECOMMENDED MOTION: "...that Resolution No. 1243-24 requesting Maryland Department of Transportation close the left turn from southbound Main Street to eastbound Gordon Street in Bel Air by the Board of Town Commissioners.

I. BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2024, Smart Growth America (SGA), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and the Town of Bel Air partnered to implement temporary improvements to the intersection of Gordon Street and Main/Bond Streets. This partnership was coordinated through Complete Streets Leadership Academy (CSLA) designed to promote safe pedestrian and bicycle movement and reduce vehicle conflicts. A series of work sessions took place over several months to produce recommendations for improvement.

II. PRIMARY ISSUES

A demonstration project initiated temporary improvements at the intersection including changes in pavement markings, signage, and flex post placement. Speed reduction devices were also placed on the approaches to the intersection. In addition, the left turn from southbound Main Street to eastbound Gordon Street was closed to reduce confusion and simplify the number of vehicle movements.

III. DISCUSSION

Most of the temporary improvements have been removed with the exception of the flex posts closing the left turn lane. The public response to the temporary closure of the left turn indicates the need for this movement is not a priority for proper and efficient traffic movement in the area. The benefits of reducing conflicts and creating a safe and convenient pedestrian friendly intersection would be supported by removal of the left turn lane and replacement with a landscaped median.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends Resolution No. 1243-24 requesting MDOT close the left turn to East Gordon Street from North Main Street be approved by the Board of Town Commissioners.

RESOLUTION NO. 1243-24

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CLOSURE
OF LEFT TURN FROM MAIN STREET
TO GORDON STREET

WHEREAS, the Town of Bel Air Charter Article IV General Powers 401.b.47.b.3. authorizes the Board of Town Commissioners to close or divert right-of-way traffic access in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Main and Bond Streets, at Gordon Street is confusing to motorists and creates a hazard to pedestrian and bicycle traffic; and

WHEREAS, the demonstration project coordinated through Maryland Department of Transportation, Smart Growth America and the Town has exhibited the removal of the left turn from southbound Main Street to eastbound Gordon Street promotes safety and does not impair the ability of the public to access either road; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bel Air has reviewed the right-of-way for public need or future infrastructure requirements and found no need for retention of the left turn movement; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bel Air cooperated with Maryland Department of Transportation on the potential to close the left turn movement; and

WHEREAS, a landscaped median would slow traffic at this location, increase safe and efficient vehicle movement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of Commissioners that the Town officially requests Maryland Department of Transportation to remove the left turn lane from southbound Main Street at the Gordon Street intersection and replace it with a landscaped median.

AND BE IT RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED:

Ayes:

Nays:

ABSENT:

Paula S. Etting, Chair

Board of Town Commissioners

Michael Krantz, Town Clerk