Joseph Cutro, P.E.: Professional History

Joseph Cutro has been a professional in the field of transportation engineering for 26 years. He is a native of Bayonne, New Jersey, where he was a high school valedictorian. Mr. Cutro graduated with a B.S. in Engineering from Tulane University (New Orleans, LA) in 1973, receiving the William Tompkins Award as that year's top-ranking graduate in Civil Engineering. He then studied on a fellowship at the University of Delaware, from which he received a Master of Civil Engineering degree while specializing in transportation.

Mr. Cutro's first professional position was with the firm Karins & Associates in Wilmington, Delaware, where he assisted in performing development-based traffic impact studies. He then briefly moved on to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., where he analyzed the effectiveness of transportation initiatives in controlling air pollution. Mr. Cutro then took a position with the firm Henningson, Durham & Richardson in that firm's Chevy Chase, Maryland office. At HDR, Mr. Cutro authored comprehensive traffic safety studies for the cities of Cambridge, Chestertown, and Cumberland in Maryland, and for the City of Suffolk, Virginia, effectively becoming the resident traffic engineer for those communities during the course of the work. He also prepared traffic impact studies for developments in locations as far-ranging as Phoenix, Arizona, and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

In 1980, Mr. Cutro was hired by the City of Rockville, Maryland to be its Traffic Engineer. In that role, he spent the next 18+ years dealing with the broadest range of traffic and transportation issues. In 1994, Mr. Cutro was promoted to the newly-created Chief Engineer/Transportation position, in which he became responsible for the management of roadway design and transportation-related development review in addition to his continuing traffic engineering functions. In that role, Mr. Cutro planned and managed a Capital Improvements Program valued at over $10,000,000. He resigned from full-time City service in December of 1998, but continued in a part-time consulting role through February, 2000. In recognition of his outstanding work in Rockville, Mr. Cutro was awarded the 1998 Community Transportation Award by the Washington, D.C. section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).

While at Rockville, Mr. Cutro set up the City's first coordinated traffic signal systems and established a reliable system of computer monitoring and control. He personally designed a large majority of the City's signal installations, and in the process, developed the City's "signature" mast arm pole design. In the area of street lighting, he made Rockville the first jurisdiction in Maryland to convert entirely to efficient HPS lighting, an effort for which the City was awarded by Public Technology Inc. (PTI). Mr. Cutro also established new City standards for the design and application of traffic signs and markings. In the field of transportation planning, Mr. Cutro co-authored the "Standard Traffic Methodology", the City's guidelines for the analysis and review of developer-submitted traffic impact studies.

At Rockville, Mr. Cutro was one of the lead designers for the Wootton Parkway project, the largest capital project ever undertaken by the City. He was responsible for much of the new road's geometric design, particularly of intersections, as well as for traffic control and lighting. Mr. Cutro also initiated City policies and procedures for neighborhood traffic management and traffic calming, and directed the first (1983) installation of speed humps on a public street in Maryland. Under Mr. Cutro's leadership, pedestrian safety and accessibility became important priorities in Rockville, and he has given presentations on the subject to the Transportation Research Board and the American Public Works Association. Administratively, Mr. Cutro served as secretary to the City's Traffic and Transportation Commission, while providing as-needed staff support to the Mayor and Council and the City's Planning Commission. He was also the City's chief liaison with other transportation agencies, most notably the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Mr. Cutro is an active member of the Institute of Traffic Engineers, having served on both national and sectional committees. He is a licensed professional engineer (P.E.) in Maryland, and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the International Municipal Signal Association. Mr. Cutro was also one of the founding members of the Maryland Traffic Engineers Council (MTEC), and umbrella group of chief traffic engineering officials from public agencies throughout the state.

Mr. Cutro lives and maintains an office in Rockville, Maryland. He is married to Sarah Navid, a practicing professional traffic engineer in her own right.

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Case No. 16566
Exhibit No. 146

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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