



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

March 20, 2012

To: Michael Paylor,
Chief, Traffic Engineering Design Division
Maryland State Highway Administration

RE: WAYNE AVE & GEORGIA AVE (SILVER SPRING)
SIDEWALK CURBS AND RAMPS

Dear Mr. Paylor,

We are writing to request necessary and immediate improvements to the sidewalks, curbs, and ramps at the corner of Wayne and Georgia Avenues in Silver Spring. We originally expressed the community's deep concern in a December 2010 letter to our Department of Transportation, which pointed out that

The corners are in the process of being reconstructed, but some of the attempted changes are steps backwards instead of improvements. Police officers and residents alike have noted that the highly unusual design creates new obstacles for pedestrians, bikers, and those with disabilities. Unusual curb cuts, sharp angles, and unnecessary curbs (instead of ramps) channel people unnaturally, create bottlenecks, and raise unnecessary steps which may lead to either inconvenience or injury.

We urge that these corners, sidewalks, ramps, and curbs be redone or corrected before the job is considered complete.

Representatives of our board's transportation and pedestrian safety committee would be happy to assist you, either by meeting with you either at the site or discussing the intersection at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Thank you very much for your help.

Since that original communication, we heard from county officials that you would be the best point of contact to help resolve the problems. We also learned of even more complaints and concerns about the design, which has already led to several injuries and needs immediate remediation.

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We have also learned from discussions with you and others at SHA that the design process is being handled by several SHA divisions with limited intra-agency communication about these problems, yet the process included no public input. The results of this process are problematic and dangerous. Finally, we also learned that the Montgomery County DOT knows of other complaints and similar problems stemming from SHA intersection changes on state roads around the county.

We would like to invite you and other SHA officials to a meeting with us here in Silver Spring so that we can see the intersections together and discuss several possible and necessary solutions. We understand the need to make intersections more accessible per ADA guidelines, and urge that these changes be made in conjunction with – instead of opposed to – general pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our community more walkable and pedestrian-friendly.

On behalf of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Darian Unger, and the signature on the right is for Dan Morales. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darian Unger and Dan Morales,
Co-chairs of the Pedestrian Safety & Transportation Committee of the
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

CC
County Executive Leggett
Montgomery County Council
Art Director Holmes, Director, Montgomery County Department of
Transportation
Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Coordinator for Montgomery County (DOT)
Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center