



## **WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

*Serving the areas of Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy chase, Friendship Heights  
Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville*

July 21, 2010

The Honorable Françoise Carrier, Chair  
Montgomery County Planning Board  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board  
Intersection Improvements associated with BRAC - NNMC

Dear Ms. Carrier:

The Western Montgomery County Citizen Advisory Board (WMCCAB) has been closely following the transportation challenges created by the Base Relocation and Closure (BRAC) move to National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) over the last few years. Of particular interest to the communities represented by the WMCCAB are the proposed improvements to four adjacent and nearby intersections including:

- Old Georgetown Rd/West Cedar Lane
- Wisconsin Ave/West Cedar Lane/Cedar Lane
- Wisconsin Ave/Center Dr/Jones Bridge Rd
- Connecticut Ave/Jones Bridge Rd/Kensington Parkway

We understand that the rationale for making these improvements is to accommodate the increase in traffic generated by BRAC without degrading the flow of traffic in the area. However, in keeping with the vision for the area expressed in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan and in concert with the concerns of communities affected by BRAC, we are especially concerned about addressing the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Issues of note include:

- Improving Route 355 has long been of interest to the WMCCAB. The CAB is on record urging that there be a unified, multi-jurisdictional approach towards the planning, design and redevelopment of this crucial artery from Jones Bridge Road to Shady Grove Road.
- The BRAC related projects in the vicinity should be integrated and coordinated and work toward improving the mobility of vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles in the entire area.

- The SHA improvements in particular must work in concert with county efforts for improved bike access in the area (including completion of the North Bethesda Trail connecting White Flint to Bethesda) and the reconfiguration at Medical Center Metro.
- All improvements must meet guidelines and standards including ADA compliance.
- Where modifications to intersections are proposed that have negative impacts on contiguous communities, the county and state must work to mitigate those negative impacts.

Also, while the WMCCAB has not held its own public meetings on the subject, two of our members have served on the BRAC Implementation Committee throughout this process. In addition, the CAB has heard from a number of stakeholders in the area immediately affected by the proposed intersection improvements. We appreciate their efforts to relay specific concerns and support the continued involvement of these groups in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue F Knapp".

Sue F Knapp

Chair