

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

August 20, 2010

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director Montgomery County Department of Transportation 101 Monroe Street, 10th floor Rockville, MD 20850

RE:

Jones Bridge Road Shared Use Path

From Wisconsin Avenue (MD355) to Connecticut Avenue (MD185)

CIP No. 501300

Mandatory Referral No. MR2010809

Dear Mr. Holmes:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on July 15, 2010, the Planning Board reviewed and approved the Mandatory Referral for this project with the following comments.

Some of the numbered comments made below address specific locations along the route of the proposed shared use path on the north side of Jones Bridge Road. As a general comment, we recommend that you explore the possibility of moving the eastern half of the proposed shared use path to the south side of the road, crossing at the proposed traffic signal at NNMC's University Road gate. This recommendation is made with the objective of minimizing impacts to residents along the north side of Jones Bridge Road at the east end of the project, while still providing a shared use path of adequate width to accommodate users safely. Our detailed comments are:

- 1. Widen the proposed segments of five-foot-wide shared use path to eight feet minimum.
- 2. The proposed path adjacent to the curb should be ten feet wide.
- 3. Widen the proposed landscape panel to greater than five feet where possible.
- 4. At the western project limit, extend the proposed path about 60 feet and realign the first 300 feet of the proposed path to be behind the utility pole to provide a greater offset from the road.
- 5. Provide handicap ramps at all bus stops and at all intersections within the project limits where safe pedestrian crossings of Jones Bridge Road can be accommodated. Where a safe intersection crossing cannot be provided, signs should be posted to prohibit the crossing and direct pedestrians to the nearest safe crossing.

- 6. Locate the proposed path behind handicap ramps wherever possible.
- 7. Provide shade trees between the path and curb wherever possible. Where it is not possible to achieve this, provide trees behind the path and provide other plant materials between the path and curb.
- 8. Provide a ten-foot-wide path in front of the home and driveway at 4003 Jones Mill Road.
- 9. Delete the easternmost 350 feet of proposed path from the project if SHA agrees to construct it as part of their MD185/Jones Bridge Road intersection project.
- 10. Continue to coordinate with SHA on their work within your project limits.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please call Larry Cole at 301-495-4528.

Sincerely,

Françoise M. Carrier

Chair