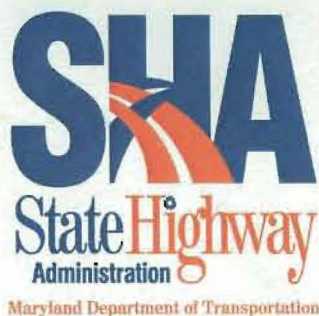


Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*



Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, *Secretary*
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

August 18, 2010

The Honorable Roger Berliner
Montgomery County Council
6th Floor
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville MD 20850

Dear Councilmember Berliner:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Intersection Improvement Project at MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Jones Bridge Road/Kensington Parkway. The State Highway Administration (SHA) understands the importance of this project, not only for the BRAC implementation in Bethesda, but also for the residents of the surrounding area. In particular, your letter urges SHA to set aside \$2 million.

Mitigating for BRAC and providing improvements that benefit all stakeholders have been, and continue to be, challenging endeavors. My staff and I will continue to work to seek resolution to the concerns of the Chevy Chase Valley Community. Communication and coordination with that community has been ongoing, and I am confident we will be able to reach consensus.

The SHA has reviewed and evaluated the Spring Valley traffic study provided by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). The SHA concurs with the county's findings that the Platt Ridge Road Extension will provide the best solution to address the community access concerns, while minimizing the impacts to the surrounding roadway network. The extension of Platt Ridge Road will have impacts to the North Chevy Chase Local Park, owned by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The SHA also supports the construction of a temporary traffic signal at Jones Bridge Road and Spring Valley Road. We also agree that the Spring Valley Road signal is a reasonable way to address the access concerns in the interim, while the ultimate solution is sought.

My telephone number/toll-free number is 410-545-0400 or 1-800-206-0770
Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

Street Address: 707 North Calvert Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 • Phone 410.545.0300 • www.roads.maryland.com

The Honorable Roger Berliner

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The BRAC intersection project at MD 185 and Jones Bridge Road/Kensington Parkway has been separated into three phases. At this point, only Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be moving forward, given funding and timing constraints. When funds become available, SHA agrees to begin the preliminary engineering phase for the Platt Ridge Road Extension, provided that MCDOT accepts the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the new roadway and the Montgomery County Planning Board and M-NCPPC support the park impacts of the new roadway. The SHA will not exhaust funding and move forward with the Platt Ridge Road Extension without full support from MCDOT, M-NCPPC, and the Planning Board.

Thank you again for your letter. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ms. Barbara L. Solberg, Assistant Division Chief, Highway Design Division, SHA at 410-545-8830, toll-free 1-888-228-5003 or via email at bsolberg@sha.state.md.us.

Sincerely,



fw Neil J. Pedersen
Administrator

cc: Mr. Arthur Holmes, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Ms. Barbara L. Solberg, Assistant Chief, Highway Design Division, SHA
Mr. Brian W. Young, District Engineer, SHA