



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

CRAIG RICE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 2

May 12, 2015

Brian Young
District Engineer, District 3
State Highway Administration
9300 Kenilworth Avenue
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1403

Dear Mr. Young:

At a recent meeting we had, I expressed my ongoing commitment and advocacy for pedestrian safety in Montgomery County. As Germantown continues to grow, the urgency heightens to ensure that pedestrians and transit co-exist in a safe and compatible manner. Recently, there have been incidents in which pedestrians have been seriously injured or killed crossing our increasingly congested roadways. The death of Christina Morris Ward, a student at Seneca Valley High School, in 2012 highlighted the need to ensure pedestrian safety, especially at our busiest intersections. A recent news story, link attached, highlighted the necessity of safe co-existence between transit and our residents, particularly students. <http://www.nbcwashington.com/investigations/More-Drivers-Charged-With-Illegally-Passing-School-Buses-303364021.html>

Several intersections in Germantown pose some significant safety concerns with the increase of pedestrian and transit activity in that area. I know our police department is involved in an analysis of pedestrian issues in this area, and I feel that SHA involvement would complement and enhance this effort. I would like to request that a Pedestrian Road Safety Audit be completed of the Germantown area, especially along Route 118 (Germantown Road) and Route 355 (Frederick Road) including but not limited these intersections along Route 118: Clopper Mill Rd; Father Hurley Blvd; Wisteria Dr; Middlebrook Rd; and Crystal Rock Drive.

I have appreciated the prompt response from the State Highway Administration in the past when we contacted your administration regarding the frightening incident in which two students from Kingsview

Middle School were struck by a vehicle turning on a green light while the students also had a walk sign in the crosswalk. After a study of the area, SHA determined that a delayed timing of the light would allow safe passage for these students to cross Clopper Road and get to school. I look forward to the implementation of this action and know that even a small change like that can make a big impact regarding improved pedestrian safety in that area.

I applaud the efforts of the State Highway Administration to study these areas of concern and make any corrective actions needed to ensure pedestrian safety along your roadways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "C" and "R".

Craig Rice
Councilmember Dist-2