



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

April 10, 2012

Ms. Melinda Peters  
Administrator  
Maryland State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street, C-400  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**RE:** Pedestrian-Activated Traffic Signal at Connecticut Ave (MD 185) & Lenox St

Dear Ms. Peters:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Council, I am writing to strongly support Chevy Chase Village's request to install a pedestrian-activated traffic signal at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) and Lenox Street. This signal is imperative to the safe pedestrian access across this busy commuter artery into and out of the District of Columbia, will facilitate access to public transportation on either side of Connecticut Avenue (the avenue) and will provide for other societal benefits.

Chevy Chase Village (the Village) is in a unique situation as they are the only municipality in the area that is bisected by a State Highway with no traffic control measures within its boundaries to allow safe crossing. The avenue thereby impedes residents' safe and convenient passage between the Village's east and west sides and impedes access to and from public transportation. A pedestrian-activated traffic light would greatly improve pedestrian safety; enhance east side residents' access to the Village's offices and the Chevy Chase branch of the United States Post Office, located at West Lenox Street and Connecticut Avenue, both of which are on the west side of the Village, and further promote the use of public transportation as providing access to the seven bus stops along the avenue. Thus, a traffic signal would facilitate integration of the community and residents' participation in community affairs.

The Village has observed that Connecticut Avenue has created a significant obstacle to participation in Village governance by residents who live on its east side of the avenue because all Village elections and official Village business occurs in the Village Hall on the west side of the avenue. This results in a greater than four to one disparity in the participation rate for west side residents versus those on the east side of the avenue. As common sense would dictate, the six-lane State Highway that bisects the Village is a major impediment to political participation of all levels by residents who live on its east side.

I strongly urge the Maryland State Highway Administration to install a pedestrian-activated traffic signal at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) and Lenox Street to increase public safety and facilitate safe access across this busy commuter route. On behalf of the Montgomery County Council I thank you and the SHA staff for your careful consideration of Chevy Chase Village's request.

Sincerely



Roger Berliner  
President, Montgomery County Council

cc: Senator Richard S. Madaleno, Jr., Maryland District 18  
Delegate Alfred C. Carr, Jr., Maryland District 18  
Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez, Maryland District 18  
Delegate Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher, Maryland District 18  
Montgomery County Council  
Beverley Swaim-Staley, Secretary of Transportation, Maryland Department of  
Transportation  
Darrell Mobley, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Maryland Department of  
Transportation  
Brian Young, District Engineer, State Highway Administration District 3  
Augustine Rebish, Assistant District Engineer, State Highway Administration District 3  
Cedric Ward, Assistant District Engineer - Traffic, State Highway Administration District  
3  
Thomas Hicks, Director, Office of Traffic & Safety, State Highway Administration  
Woody Hood, III, Deputy Director, Office of Traffic & Safety, State Highway  
Administration  
Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers  
Shana R. Davis-Cook, Village Manger, Chevy Chase Village  
Michael W. Younes, Director of Municipal Operations, Chevy Chase Village  
Chevy Chase Village Traffic Committee

RB:mwy