

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



James T. Smith, Jr., *Secretary*
Melinda B. Peters, *Administrator*

February 10, 2014

Mr. Michael Younes
Director of Municipal Operations
Chevy Chase Village
5906 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase MD 20815

Dear Mr. Younes:

This letter is in response to Chevy Chase Village's request for a traffic signal near the intersection of MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Lennox Street. The State Highway Administration (SHA) District 3 traffic engineering staff has reviewed your request, and I am writing to provide you the results.

SHA understands and acknowledges that Chevy Chase Village has correspondence from 1977 and 1978 that suggests that a signal was to be constructed at the intersection of MD 185 and Lennox Street; however, the village opposed this signal and requested that the signal be relocated midblock between Kirke Street and Lenox Street to allow a signalized pedestrian crossing. For reasons unknown to my staff, the signal was not constructed at either Lennox Street or where the village requested it be moved.

Although Chevy Chase Village has correspondence suggesting that in 1977, the SHA was willing to install a traffic signal at MD 185 and Lennox Street, such correspondence cannot be used to support the construction of a traffic signal in present time. Traffic volumes and patterns change significantly over 35 years, and the conditions that justified the signal in 1977 may be applicable in present day.

SHA follows the nationally accepted "*Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*" (MUTCD) as a guideline for when and where various traffic control devices should be installed. These guidelines are nationwide in scope and are promulgated by the Federal Highway Administration. The application of these guidelines is not without considerable and deliberate forethought with the primary reason being safety. As a highway operations agency, SHA assumes an obligation to follow these guidelines.

My telephone number/toll-free number is 301.513.7409
Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

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SHA's District Three Traffic staff has evaluated several alternatives to determine if a traffic signal could be provided near MD 185 and Lennox Street. To be warranted, a traffic signal must have a volume of pedestrians or vehicles entering or crossing MD 185 that exceeds thresholds established by the MUTCD. Based on our review, it was determined that neither Lennox Street nor Kirke Street individually had the traffic or pedestrian volumes that would warrant a signal. After this was determined, we then combined the Kirke Street and Lennox Street volumes to see if a traffic signal would then be warranted. Even with combined pedestrian and vehicular volumes, a traffic signal was not warranted. For these reasons, a traffic signal along MD 185 at Lennox Street, Kirke Street, or between the two intersections is not justified at this time.

Thank you for your request. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Anyesha Mookherjee, Assistant District Engineer-Traffic at 301-513-7498 or 1-800-749-0737. Ms. Mookherjee will be pleased to assist you. Of course, feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Young
District Engineer

cc: Ms. Anyesha Mookherjee, Assistant District Engineer – Montgomery
County, SHA