



Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Department of Public Works and Transportation
Office of the Director



January 31, 2006

Ms. Heather Iliff, President
Berwyn District Civic Association
P.O. Box 535
College Park, Maryland 20740

Re: Paint Branch Parkway, 1-4161

Dear Ms. Iliff:

This is in reference to your January 6, 2006 letter on behalf of the Berwyn District Civic Association regarding traffic safety concerns at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (MNCPPC) Hiker-Biker Trail, where it intersects Paint Branch Parkway.

Please note that to provide a sound basis for engineering judgment with respect to the need for traffic control devices, this Department conforms to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Based on the guidelines instituted by this manual, there are no existing warrants that would justify the installation of a traffic control signal based solely on the speed of traffic. It should be noted that signals are not installed as a measure of speed control, or forcing speeding vehicles to stop. Currently, there is a very low volume of pedestrians using the hiker-biker trail and subsequently crossing Paint Branch Parkway. Therefore, based on the guidelines set forth, the installation of a pedestrian traffic signal at this location is not warranted.

Our Department has implemented the following measures over the past years to increase safety for pedestrians using the crosswalk at Paint Branch Parkway. We have installed "Advanced Pedestrian" warning signs with distance plates on both directions of Paint Branch Parkway as motorists approach the crosswalk. To further enhance traffic safety, we installed a

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set of Psycho-Perceptive markings in each direction, in advance of the designated crosswalk. Psycho-Perceptive markings consist of a series of transverse pavement markings across travel lanes of a roadway. These "Psycho-Perceptive" markings are used to heighten motorists' awareness of the prevailing roadway conditions; thereby, inducing them to drive more prudently. In addition, at the City's request, we also installed rumble strips on Paint Branch Parkway on September 20, 2005. The vibrations and noise generated by the rumble strips are expected to help heighten motorists' awareness of the approaching crosswalk. At the current time, all appropriate traffic control devices such as Speed Limit and Pedestrian warning signs are found to be in place and visible to motorists. Our review of the available accident data does not indicate any reported accidents at this location.

Please note that experience has shown that police enforcement is the most effective method of controlling speed. Therefore, by copy of this letter, we are requesting Chief Melvin C. High of the Prince George's County Police Department to consider providing priority enforcement of the posted speed limit on Paint Branch Parkway. It is suggested that the residents contact the Police Department in their area directly to request a periodic police enforcement of the posted speed limit. Their telephone number is (301) 699-2630.

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If you have any questions regarding the above matters, please contact J. Rick Gordon, Associate Director of our Office of Transportation, at (301) 883-5700. For further information about other DPW&T and County services or activities, please visit our website at www.goprincegeorgescounty.com.

Sincerely,



Haitham A. Hijazi
Director

HAH/KMM/lf

cc: Chief Melvin C. High, Prince George's County Police
Department
J. Rick Gordon, Associate Director, Office of
Transportation
Andre' Issayans, Chief, Division of Traffic
Hadi Quaiyum, Chief, Traffic Studies Section