

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



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

September 30, 2014

Mr. Kevin Young  
Berwyn District Civic Association  
P.O. Box 535  
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Mr. Young:

This is in response to your letter, dated August 12, 2014, regarding traffic operations and safety along MD 430 (Greenbelt Road) between MD 193 (University Boulevard) and US 1 (Baltimore Avenue) in Prince George's County. Safety for all road users is the top priority of the State Highway Administration (SHA).

Currently, MD 430 has two through lanes in each direction with turn lanes at certain intersections. The proposed project will provide one travel lane in each direction, maintain existing turn lanes and provide new turn lanes at intersections where they do not exist today. Specifically, at 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue motorists currently turn from the through travel lane. In the proposed condition, clearly marked turn lanes will be established at these intersections to improve safety. A traffic analysis of existing and future volumes along MD 430 confirmed that the intersection operations will be unaffected by the proposed lane reduction.

I would like to reiterate that SHA follows the nationally accepted Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) as a guideline for the installation of all traffic control devices. These guidelines are nationwide in scope and endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As a highway operations agency, the SHA assumes an obligation to follow these guidelines. The intersection of MD 430 and Rhode Island Avenue does not meet warrants for installing a traffic signal. As indicated in our letter dated April 25<sup>th</sup> to Mayor Andrew Fellows of College Park, neither the traffic volumes nor pedestrian/bike volumes at the intersection meet the thresholds for signalization. Additionally, there was no discernible pattern of collisions correctible by the installation of a traffic signal. As a result, we do not recommend installing a traffic signal at this intersection at this time. Please note that our speed studies are conducted during the off peak hours (10 AM to 2 PM) of an average weekday. However, our traffic, pedestrian and bicyclist volumes studies are conducted on an average weekday between 6 AM and 7 PM for a period of 13 hours to get a comprehensive understanding of intersection operations.

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

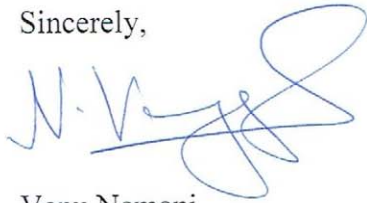
Street Address: 9300 Kenilworth Avenue • Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 • Phone 301.513.7300 • [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov)

Mr. Kevin Young  
Page Two

Furthermore, the MD 430 and Rhode Island Avenue intersection will be clearly marked with turn lanes in all directions and crosswalk markings that include cross hatching for high visibility. There are existing fluorescent yellow pedestrian crossing warning signs at the intersection. There are at least three street lights illuminating the crosswalks at this intersection. The sight distance for various maneuvers at this intersection meets American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requirements. As a result, we do not recommend installing a flashing beacon either at this time.

Thank you again for your letter. If we may be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact me, at 301-513-7404 or toll free at 1-800-749-0737. I will be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Nemani', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Venu Nemani  
Assistant District Engineer-Traffic