



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 14, 2013

Chris Barclay, President
Board of Education
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Art Holmes, Director
Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 11th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Tom Manger, Chief
Montgomery County Police
100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Mr. Barclay, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Manger,

You may be aware of a pedestrian safety incident that recently occurred near Bethesda Elementary School, on Arlington Road and Edgemoor Lane. Fortunately, no one involved was seriously hurt, including a baby who was reportedly strapped into the stroller when it was struck by a vehicle making a left-hand turn from Edgemoor.

Still, I believe this incident underscores the need for a serious consideration of the pedestrian safety dynamics in this part of Bethesda. Given the proximity to Bethesda Elementary School and our efforts to encourage students and parents to walk to school, it is all the more imperative that we take a look at various measures at our disposal to enhance the safety of pedestrians and the street as a whole. I have heard recently from constituents of mine who live nearby, including members of the Battery Park Citizens Association Ad Hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee, who have suggested the following three measures. Especially in light of this most recent incident, I would appreciate your consideration of these proposals:

- Assign a crossing guard to this location to ensure the safety of students attending Bethesda Elementary School as they cross Arlington.
- Install a yellow flashing "school zone" sign with a lower speed limit during the school day.
- Install automated speed enforcement at Arlington Road at an appropriate location nearby. This location would be consistent with the County's established practice of using automated enforcement near schools.

I thank you for your continued interest in improving pedestrian safety in Montgomery County and look forward to your thoughts on these potential measures to make this part of Bethesda safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Berliner".

Roger Berliner
District 1

CC: Lisa Seymour, Principal, Bethesda Elementary School
Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator, Department of Transportation