



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Al R. Roshdich
Acting Director

March 12, 2015

BRAC Integration Committee (BIC)
VIA Mr. Phil Alperson
Office of the Montgomery County Executive
c/o MCDOT Division of Transportation Engineering
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor SE
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

RE: Pedestrian and Cyclist Accessibility Safety During Construction of BRAC Projects

Dear Committee Members:

This is in response to your November 25, 2014, letter regarding pedestrian and cyclist accessibility safety during construction of BRAC Projects, which asks that certain "Key Issues" be addressed. In short, these call for safe pedestrian and cyclist accommodations within work zones to be maintained in the area during the construction of these projects with adequate lighting, signage, and pavement markings providing clear pathways between residential areas, the Medical Center Metro area and the business district.

We certainly understand your concerns as both Montgomery Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) are very much committed to pedestrian/cyclist safety. I am pleased to inform you that safety factors you have pointed out have been included in the specifications and provisions of the MD 355 Crossing Project, and MCDOT will fully implement them within the limits of our project. The specifications specifically require:

- Lighting – per national standards, along MD 355 including intersections, the shared-use path on the west side, the plaza area, and the pedestrian underpass/escalator/stair and elevator;
- Maintenance of Traffic – safe and efficient passage of pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicular traffic through and around construction zone, fully compliant with all applicable regulations including ADA requirements;
- Crosswalks - maintenance of all existing crosswalks within project limits throughout construction.

Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations

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Regarding the State intersection improvement projects, we understand that pedestrians and bicyclists are both considered as a part of every project, both during and post construction. While there may be some disruption, it is policy that a safe, ADA-compliant, and reasonably convenient path be provided at all times through a project. Where residents express pedestrian safety concerns, particularly during project construction, MCDOT will be happy to share those concerns with the appropriate State officials and work with them to make the necessary enhancements.

Once completed, BRAC projects along MD 355 and Cedar Lane will include a shared use path on one side and sidewalk on the other side. All existing pedestrian crossings will be maintained and additional crossing may be provided.

Signals will be timed in accordance with ADA standards, which are designed to allow slower-moving pedestrians adequate time to cross, and the signals will also include countdown pedestrian signals and accessible pedestrian signals (which emit audible tones for the visually impaired).

As you have suggested, we will continue to coordinate our efforts with SHA to address pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility throughout the course of these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Lees", written in a cursive style.

Fred Lees, Acting Chief
Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations

FL:tc

cc: Brian Young, SHA, District 3 Engineer
Andrew Bossi, MCDOT
Tim Cupples, MCDOT