



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

July 6, 2009

Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

Mr. Darian Unger, Chairman
Silver Spring Advisory Board
8435 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Unger:

Thank you for your letter dated June 11, 2009, requesting the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to advocate with the State Highway Administration (SHA) for a speed limit reduction on Piney Branch Road between New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. While we agree that high travel speeds along this portion of roadway may contribute to the number and severity of crashes, we also understand that just changing the speed limit will not significantly alter travel speeds.

Therefore, we have discussed this issue with SHA's traffic officials during a meeting to follow up on the Piney Branch Road Pedestrian Safety Audit findings and recommendations. They assured us that they will reevaluate the 40 MPH speed limit zone for a possible speed limit reduction once the recommendations from the Pedestrian Safety Audit are implemented. The objective is to change the character of the road through the installation of physical features including pedestrian refuge islands similar to the one installed near Garland Avenue, so that travel speeds will be reduced and a lower speed limit may be appropriate.

Again, thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 240-777-2190.

Sincerely,

Fred Lees, Section Chief
Traffic Engineering and Studies Section

FL:sd

cc: Mr. Jeff Dunckel, Montgomery County
Mr. Jeffrey Wentz, Assistant District Engineer, SHA.

Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations

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