



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

June 11, 2009

Mr. Fred Lees  
Department of Transportation  
101 Orchard Ridge Drive 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Mr. Jeff Dunckel  
Pedestrian Safety Coordinator  
Department of Transportation  
101 Monroe Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Messrs. Lees and Dunckel:

We are writing to urge you to advocate a speed limit reduction on Piney Branch Road just south of New Hampshire Ave. This area has been the site of several accidents and is near some of the top collision locations in our area.

On this stretch of road, the speed limit increases to 40 mph, despite being bounded by two lower-speed zones on each end. Drivers regularly speed in this area, but police are unable to adequately enforce the speed limit here because of sight line limitations and the speed limit change.

We have heard from both residents and police, and are convinced that the State Highway Administration (SHA) will require prompting from you in order to make the necessary change. SHA's reasoning so far seems to be based on an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile rule, suggesting that most drivers in the 40 mph go at comfortably navigable speeds (although above the speed limit). This by-the-book decisionmaking does not consider real-world factors that we consider to be important, including road configuration, density, proximity to schools and residences, and need for enforceability.

Please advocate a uniform lower speed limit to facilitate enforcement and improve safety, and please let us know the results of your advocacy.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Darian Unger  
Chair

cc:

Isiah Leggett, County Executive  
Maura Lynch, Assistant State's Attorney  
Mary Kendall, CSAFE  
Gretchen Hilburger, CSAFE

Regional Services/ Redevelopment Program