

MD 355 AT CEDAR LANE – The left turn phasing for northbound and southbound MD 355 is currently operating in exclusive mode (green arrow, yellow arrow and red arrow). This used to operate in exclusive/permissive phase wherein the left turning traffic could utilize gaps in opposing traffic to turn left on the green ball. Our observations indicate that the opposing through volumes are too high for SHA to allow this movement to operate in exclusive/permissive mode. Please remember that before the BRAC related improvements were implemented, this intersection exhibited a pattern of left and angle crashes and the current phasing was meant to remedy that crash pattern.

However, our observations show that in the morning hours, when the northbound through traffic is relatively light, there are adequate gaps for the southbound left turning traffic to turn left. In the evening, once the northbound through traffic picks up there are hardly any gaps in the opposing traffic. The signal system may provide an occasional gap or two but this is not predictable. We are therefore, recommending that the southbound left turn movement operate in a flashing red arrow mode except during the evening rush hour, when it would operate in the existing green arrow only mode. Please note that our initial recommendations are being looked into by our Office of Traffic and Safety, whose approval we need before any implementation can happen.

At the meeting last night, someone asked about the northbound left turn movement and the possibility of instituting a flashing red arrow for it. Our observations did not show any issues with this movement as the volumes are relatively low. However, we will look into this and provide an answer within the next 60 days.

The other issue that was raised by the community was the need for an exclusive westbound right turn lane on Cedar Lane. SHA will conduct new counts and do traffic modelling to evaluate the effect of marking the outside through right lane as a right only lane. Please allow us 90 days to complete this.

MD 355 AT JONES BRIDGE ROAD – There is a dynamic lane control sign that modifies the lane use for the second lane (from the inside median) on the southbound MD 355 approach –let’s call this lane 2. During the day this lane operates as a through lane (the dynamic lane control sign displays a through arrow during this time), except during 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm when this operates as an additional left turn lane (the dynamic lane control sign displays a left arrow during this time window). There are two signal heads (green arrow, yellow arrow, red arrow) on the mast arm as per our standards which dictates that for double left turn lanes there should be two signal displays. This however creates confusion during the day when the signal head that corresponds to lane 2 shows a green arrow but the dynamic lane control sign shows a through arrow display. Between 3: 30 pm and 6:30 pm, the displays match up. We recommend removing the signal head for lane 2 as a fix to this confusion. Please note that our initial recommendations are being looked into by our Office of Traffic and Safety, whose approval we need before any implementation can happen.

At the meeting last night, a citizen recommended additional signing on the mast arm to indicate the time of operation for the second left arrow as well as clarifying the time window of its operation. We will look into both as provide an answer within the next 60 days.