



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
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ROGER BERLINER
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

June 13, 2011

Mr. Neil J. Pedersen
Administrator
State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

We are writing to you regarding the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Road in the Olney area of Montgomery County.

Before Contract A of the ICC opened this spring, the public was told by the ICC Team that the anticipated traffic increase at the Georgia/Norbeck intersection would be accommodated in part by "widening along northbound MD 97 to provide an additional through lane." This written statement regarding a new through lane was sent to civic groups and residents and repeated publicly numerous times.

However, to the great dismay of local residents, instead of adding an *additional* through lane on Georgia Avenue at the Norbeck intersection, the State Highway Administration has substituted one of the left turn lanes for a northbound through lane. We have already heard from many local residents that turning left at this intersection is now much more difficult. As a result, the volume of traffic wanting to turn left from 97N to 28W often backs up and blocks one of the through lanes, creating hazardous conditions. Residents have also expressed concerns regarding the timing and purpose of the change, since the intersection continued to operate normally with two left-turn lanes and three through lanes for several weeks after the ICC opened.

Given that the SHA assured communities in the vicinity of Contract A that the Georgia-Norbeck intersection would be widened to accommodate a new northbound lane and that this commitment is still on the ICC website, we urge you to reinstate the second left turn lane and add the third through lane when you repave this intersection in June. In addition, we would very much appreciate an explanation for the elimination of the left turn lane.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Roger Berliner
Chair, Transportation, Infrastructure,
Energy & Environment Committee



Hans Riemer
Member, Transportation, Infrastructure,
Energy & Environment Committee

cc:

Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Councilmember Craig Rice
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Matt Zaborsky, President, Greater Olney Civic Association
Paul Jarosinski, Transportation Chairman, Greater Olney Civic Association