



Kevin M. Baker, *Senior Pastor*
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December 19, 2011

Mr. Cedric Ward
State Highway Administration District 3
Traffic Engineer
9300 Kenilworth Avenue
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Ref: Traffic light at Emory Church Road &
Georgia Avenue (MD Rt. 97), Olney MD

Dear Mr. Ward:

Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church would like to reiterate our strong support for the full signalization of the traffic signal at Emory Church Road and Georgia Avenue (MD Rt. 97). With the full opening of the ICC Toll Road (Route 200) and the increased traffic on MD Route 97, safety of our church members, preschool students and visitors is of the utmost importance. Our church is very active every day, not just on Sundays for worship services. In addition to our Sunday worship services, The Ark Children's Center preschool is located at Oakdale Emory and we host daily (daytime and evening) meetings and special events such as large weddings and funerals.

We would like to point out that the marked crosswalk has no provision for stopping traffic and the light currently only flashes yellow, offering little protection for those pedestrians who wish to cross Georgia Avenue to the commercial area, or to catch the bus, or go to Olney Manor Park or nearby residential areas.

The opening of the new ShaareTefila Synagogue, one-half block south of the light on Georgia Avenue, has added many more vehicles to this intersection. A new church recently approved on Emory Church Road, with a seating capacity of approximately 800 people will also add to the congestion during construction and final occupancy.

We strongly encourage immediate approval before a major and potentially deadly accident(s) occurs. We hope that this intersection signal will also be synchronized with the traffic light signals at Old Baltimore Road and Georgia Avenue, as well as Emory Lane and Georgia Avenue to minimize the start and stop traffic flow on Georgia Avenue in Olney. Please let us know when you might be able to meet and discuss this matter with us and the local merchants, civic organizations, GOCA, SEROCA, and others affected by this extremely unsafe intersection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Long".

Joseph Long
Chairman, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Strahan".

Ted Strahan
Chairman, Church Council

cc: Kevin Baker, Senior Pastor
GOCA
SEROCA
Roots Market
ShaareTefila Synagogue