



Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, *Secretary*
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

Maryland Department of Transportation

June 9, 2011

Mr. Daniel Vogelman
Principal, Westland Middle School
5511 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda MD 20816

Dear Mr. Vogelman:

This letter is in follow up to a meeting held last month regarding safety concerns along MD 396 (Massachusetts Avenue) in the vicinity of Westland Middle School in Montgomery County. Representatives from the Maryland General Assembly, Westland Middle School Administration, State Highway Administration (SHA), and the community stakeholders were in attendance.

As noted in our meeting, the SHA's District Three traffic engineering staff evaluated a number of potential treatments for this area: including traffic signals, flashing beacons, signal timing adjustments, road diets, and turn restrictions. Of these various alternatives SHA will be implementing a Lead Pedestrian Interval (LPI) and installing Hazard Indication Beacons (HIB). At the MD 396 and Westbard Avenue/Fort Sumner Drive intersection, we are working with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to implement the LPI. An LPI will provide approximately five (5) seconds in which all vehicular movements are stopped to allow pedestrians to be established in the crosswalk. It is anticipated that this will be implemented prior to the end of this school year.

The SHA has also initiated a project that will install HIB's, flashing yellow lights, on MD 396 as you approach the school zone. These flashing yellow lights will operate concurrently with school arrival and dismissal periods to heighten the awareness of school activities in the corridor. This project is currently in the design phase and once a construction schedule becomes available we will advise you.

As a highway agency we work closely with our partners to strive for solutions that encompass education, engineering, and enforcement. We have had numerous discussions with representatives from Montgomery County's Safe Speed Program, and are pleased to share that portable speed cameras will be reinstalled beginning the week of June 13. Furthermore, the Safe Speed Program has initiated the process to acquire more equipment to allow the availability of keeping cameras at locations longer.

My telephone number/toll-free number is 1.800.749.0737
Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

Street Address: 9300 Kenilworth Avenue · Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 · Phone 301.513.7300 · www.marylandroads.com



Mr. Daniel Vogelmann
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Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this very important issue. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my Team Leader for Traffic, Ms. Maria Bhatti, at 301-513-7465 or 1-800-749-0737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cedric Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the word "Ward".

Cedric Ward
Assistant District Engineer-Traffic (Montgomery County)

cc: The Honorable Brian Frosh, Senate of Maryland, District 18
The Honorable Bill Frick, House of Delegates, District 18
The Honorable Ariana Kelly, House of Delegates, District 18
The Honorable Susan C. Lee, House of Delegates, District 18
Mr. Neil Pedersen, Administrator, SHA