

## VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

### VILLAGE COUNCIL

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September 12, 2023

Mr. Joseph Moges  
Assistant District Engineer – Traffic  
MDOT SHA District 3 Office  
9300 Kenilworth Avenue  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Re: MD 190 (River Road) Corridor Safety Study

Dear Mr. Moges:

I am writing on behalf of the Friendship Heights Village Council, the elected governing body of the Village of Friendship Heights, to provide our comments and recommendations on the MD 190 River Road safety study, following a vote by the Village Council at its monthly public meeting on September 11.

Our comments and recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Amend the boundaries of the study so its southeastern terminus is Western Avenue, not Little Falls Parkway. Bicyclists are unsafe on River Road from Western Avenue to Little Falls Parkway, too. There is no bicycle lane on this stretch of roadway.
- 2) Perform regular maintenance cutting weeds and invasive shrubbery along the right-of-way from 4925 to 5001 River Road on the north side of River Road. Overgrowth narrows the sidewalk placing pedestrians too close to traffic in the right-hand lanes.

- 3) Change the alignment of the pedestrian crossing from American Plant to Whole Foods Shopping Center. It should be orthogonal rather than diagonal. It is currently awkward for pedestrians to use. As configured now it also ends next to the driveway into American Plant, which is dangerous.
- 4) Improve the design of the crossing under the Capital Crescent Trail to make it more visible to motorists, including possibly adding a traffic light. Suggesting that pedestrians cross River Road there now and assuming motor vehicles will yield the right-of-way places pedestrians in a dangerous situation.
- 5) Regularly clear trees and trash from the conduit on the north side of River Road where Little Falls' Willard branch creek passes under River Road. An accumulation of these items now obstructs the creek. Heavy rains may lead to flooding of River Road.
- 6) Add a left turn signal arrow for cars turning left from eastbound River Road to eastbound Willard Avenue. Presently the flashing red signal is difficult for drivers facing oncoming traffic going downhill on westbound River Road.
- 7) Reprogram the signal sequence for cars exiting Greenacres subdivision on to westbound River Road. A left turn signal arrow is needed so that cars exiting the subdivision do not have to contend with traffic turning right from Willard onto westbound River Road at the same time.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Rose White".

Melanie Rose White  
Mayor