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October 30, 2026

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration
Office of Traffic and Safety
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Request for Field Review of Pedestrian Signal Timing Along MD 355 (Wisconsin Avenue) Adjacent to the Village of Friendship Heights
Our Job No.: 2025-0919

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the Village of Friendship Heights, I am writing to respectfully request that the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) conduct a field review of the existing pedestrian signal timing along MD 355 (Wisconsin Avenue) adjacent to the Village of Friendship Heights.

Attached is a spreadsheet of my crossing observations conducted on Thursday morning of May 28, 2026. I calculated crossing times at 3.5 feet per second and at the slower walking rate of 2.5 feet per second. My observations show that the available crossing times do not meet the standard criteria.

This corridor serves a significant number of older adults and pedestrians accessing residential buildings, retail establishments, medical offices, places of worship, transit services, and community facilities in the Friendship Heights area. Given the concentration of senior residents and the high volume of pedestrian activity, it is important to ensure that current pedestrian crossing intervals provide sufficient time for all users, particularly older pedestrians and those with mobility limitations, to safely complete crossings before conflicting traffic movements receive a green indication.

I request that MDOT SHA evaluate the pedestrian clearance times at signalized intersections along this section of MD 355 to determine whether the existing timing is consistent with current pedestrian walking speed assumptions and accommodates the needs of older adults. A field review during periods of typical pedestrian activity would allow staff to observe actual crossing behavior and assess whether pedestrians are routinely able to complete crossings within the allotted time.

If the review identifies locations where pedestrian clearance intervals may be insufficient, I respectfully ask that MDOT SHA consider appropriate timing adjustments to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. Such improvements could help reduce pedestrian stress, enhance compliance with traffic signals, and support the mobility needs of older residents who rely on walking for daily activities.

DRAFT

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued efforts to improve pedestrian safety on Maryland's roadway network. I would appreciate receiving the results of any evaluation conducted and being advised of any planned actions.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Dorr
Director of Engineering Design

PRD:amr

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November 3, 2026

Mr. Kutty Menon
Engineer Traffic Operations
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Traffic Engineering and Operations Division
100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

RE: Request for Field Review of Pedestrian Crossing Clearance Times Along Willard Avenue
Our Job No.: 2025-0919

Dear Mr. Menon:

On behalf of the Village of Friendship Heights, I am writing to respectfully request that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation conduct a field review of the existing pedestrian signal timing and clearance intervals at signalized crossings along Willard Avenue.

Attached is a spreadsheet of my crossing observations conducted on Thursday morning of May 28, 2026. I calculated crossing times at 3.5 feet per second and at the slower walking rate of 2.5 feet per second. My observations show that the available crossing times do not meet the standard criteria.

Willard Avenue serves a diverse population that includes many older adults, residents of nearby senior living communities, visitors, and pedestrians accessing commercial and medical destinations. Given the increasing importance of providing safe and accessible pedestrian facilities for all users, I am concerned that the currently programmed pedestrian clearance times at some intersections may not provide sufficient time for older pedestrians or individuals with mobility limitations to safely complete their crossings before conflicting traffic movements begin.

I respectfully request that County staff evaluate the pedestrian crossing times along the corridor, including the Walk and Flashing Don't Walk intervals, and compare them against current engineering guidance and observed pedestrian walking speeds. A field review during periods of typical pedestrian activity could help determine whether the existing timing adequately accommodates older adults and other slower-walking pedestrians.

If deficiencies are identified, I ask that the County consider adjusting pedestrian clearance intervals, extending crossing times where appropriate, and implementing any other measures necessary to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. Such improvements would help ensure that all pedestrians, regardless of age or physical ability, can cross Willard Avenue safely and comfortably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing efforts to improve pedestrian safety throughout Montgomery County. I would appreciate any information regarding the results of the review and any actions the County may take in response to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Dorr
Director of Engineering Design

PRD:amr

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