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

State Highway Administration
Maryland Department of Transportation

James T. Smith, Jr., *Secretary*
Melinda B. Peters, *Administrator*

August 14, 2014

Mr. Gary Crockett
Chevy Chase Village
5906 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase MD 20815

Dear Mr. Crockett:

Thank you for your July 28 letter regarding pedestrian safety at the intersection of MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Lenox Street in Montgomery County. The Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) top priority is safety for all roadway users.

In evaluating the need for a traffic signal, SHA considers both pedestrian and vehicular volumes, crash history, and other items noted within the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) traffic signal warrants. Items you mentioned such as proximity to adjacent traffic signals, the narrow median and travel lanes, transit stops, bus ridership, and automated speed enforcement were also taken into consideration. And as always, engineering judgment is a part of the traffic signal analysis process. As noted in our previous meetings, the intersection currently does not meet the criteria outlined in the MUTCD to justify a full color traffic signal.

SHA used our traffic signal warrant analysis and engineering judgment to determine an alternative proposed solution. SHA believes the proposed flashing yellow Hazard Identification Beacons (HIB's) will help bring motorists' attention to pedestrians in the crosswalks once they are installed. Your letter mentions that due to the narrow lane widths pedestrians will be less likely to be seen. However, motorists tend to be more alert and drive slower when they are navigating through narrow lanes. It is Maryland Law that motorists' must stop for pedestrians in a marked crosswalk and if motorists are found violating this law, SHA will request support from local law enforcement. SHA has partnered with Montgomery County on numerous pedestrian safety initiatives, and will continue to work with our partners to reach our goal of zero roadway fatalities.

My telephone number/toll-free number is 410-545-0400 or 1-800-206-0770
Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

Street Address: 707 North Calvert Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 • *Phone* 410.545.0300 • www.roads.maryland.gov

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Thank you, again for your letter. If you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Cedric Ward, Director of Traffic and Safety, SHA at 410-787-5815, toll-free 1-888-963-0307 or via email at cward@sha.state.md.us. Mr. Ward will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Melinda B. Peters
Administrator

cc: Mr. Cedric Ward, P.E., Director of Traffic and Safety, SHA