

New Traffic Pattern in Chevy Chase Circle

In July, Chevy Chase Circle was completely re-paved and the new pavement was marked with an entirely new traffic pattern. This new pattern (detailed description below) was the product of a years-long effort involving traffic engineers from Maryland and DC, and representatives from Chevy Chase Village, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle, the National Park Service, and DC's Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G.

The new pattern is designed to improve traffic flow and reduce collisions by providing clear guidance to drivers so that they may navigate the Circle more safely and with less confusion. New signage is on the way, but in the meantime, temporary signage is in place to assist drivers.

Village police officers continue to be assigned periodically to the Circle to calm traffic and to reinforce safe driving behaviors. The new traffic pattern is a significant change, and all drivers should exercise caution and patience as motorists adapt to it over time.

Below is a description of the changes to the traffic pattern:

1. If you are in the Circle and you wish to exit onto Connecticut Avenue (in either direction), you may use any of the three lanes.
2. All three lanes may exit the circle but *only* the inner-most lane may continue around the Circle. In other words, if you are in the Circle and you wish to bypass either Connecticut Ave. exit and continue around the Circle, you **MUST** be in the inner-most (left) lane. (The only exception to this is if a motorist enters the Circle from either of the Western Avenue entrances. Then, in this instance, using either of the two lanes is acceptable.)



New markings on the 3 lanes of the Circle; only the inner-most lane may continue around the Circle past Connecticut Avenue.

3. Both of the Western Avenue entrances are marked for two lanes on the approach into the Circle. Both Western Avenue entrances have the same traffic pattern:
- The left approach lane must continue around the Circle bypassing Connecticut;
 - The right approach lane may either continue around the Circle bypassing Connecticut OR may exit onto Connecticut.



The eastern leg of Western Avenue (near Brookville Road) showing the new tandem lane markings



Top of the Circle at Connecticut Avenue showing the two lanes available for crossover traffic from Western