

INSPECTOR COPY



KEVIN KAMENETZ
County Executive

EDWARD C. ADAMS, JR., Director
Department of Public Works

June 11, 2014

Mr. Charles Kilmon
5822 Church Lane
Hydes, MD 21082

Dear Mr. Kilmon:

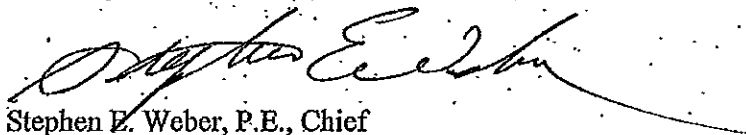
Thank you for your recent letter regarding the intersection of Harford Rd (MD 147) & Sunshine Ave/Fork Rd. We have reviewed your suggestion, however we will not be making changes to the pavement markings/lanes at this time.

While we agree that left-turn lanes/pockets would be beneficial on the Fork Rd and Sunshine Ave approaches to MD 147, it is not reasonably feasible. If the straight through traffic is forced to shift around designated left-turn lanes, the transitions in and out of these areas has to accommodate moving traffic at the posted speed limit. Once we took into account the necessary tapers and minimum lane widths needed, as well as the length of left-turn lanes that would be required, it became obvious that this simply would not fit within the current geometrics while maintaining a safe travel way for the through traffic. The Sunshine Ave approach would need a left-turn lane that could accommodate about 4 vehicles while the Fork Rd approach would need one that could accommodate about 6 vehicles. These lengths are based on the current peak-hour traffic flows through the intersection. Painting left-turn lanes that are clearly too short to accommodate the peak-hour demands would result in little improvement to the through traffic flow since the left-turn queues would continue to extend into the through lane. During off-peak times, the lack of left-turn lanes is not causing any undue problems.

To properly provide for left-turn lanes would require geometric changes (right-of-way acquisition and roadway construction/widening) on the approaches to the intersection which are not justified given that the intersection is currently rated at a Level-of-Service "C", a clearly acceptable rating during peak-hour traffic. Certainly, if traffic volumes were to increase and this rating degrades, we would be open to revisiting this possibility.

We regret we cannot accommodate your request. Should you have any specific questions or wish to discuss the matter in greater detail, please feel free to give me or Greg Carski at 410-887-3554.

Sincerely,


Stephen E. Weber, P.E., Chief
Division of Traffic Engineering

SEW/GWC

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