



Oakland Mills Community Association
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September 30, 2021

TO: Jenn Biddle, Chief, HC Traffic and Engineering

FROM: Jonathan Edelson, Chair, Oakland Mills Board of Directors

SUBJ: Stevens Forest Road Safety Concerns

Thank you for providing responses to our community concern regarding vehicle and pedestrian safety issues on Stevens Forest Road from the intersection of Santiago/Camelback to Whiteacre Road. I have shared the responses below with the Oakland Mills Board Chair and Public Space Committee Chair – their comments are below in **red**:

Stevens Forest Road at Whiteacre Road – Stop Control/crosswalk visibility:

When will the County perform the traffic studies? Please share the schedule with OMCA.

Please note that when considering the possibility of a Multi-Way Stop at a given location, we are required to follow the guidelines set forth in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD, a Federal Highway Administration document that is used nationally and adopted by Maryland and its jurisdictions, outlines minimum requirements to ensure that Multi-Way Stop Control is used where they are found to be justified through a comprehensive and objective analysis.

Due to the pandemic closure of public-school buildings and many commuters teleworking the last academic year and a portion of the year prior, volume collections were put on hold and backlogged, due to an unusually low skew in traffic volumes. This intersection is on that list of volumes to be collected, and now that in-session school has commenced, volume collections are to be performed. A federal warrant analysis will be performed for the intersection using the updated data.

Staff will investigate the possibilities of feasible signing enhancements to bring advance warning of the pedestrian crossings at this location.

Please provide OMCA the approximate date/timeframe when you will report back on your investigation.

Stevens Forest Road at Robert Oliver Place – Faded pavement markings:

All long-line pavement markings were refreshed on Stevens Forest Road and surrounding roads this past June 2021. Crews are tasked to inspect crosswalks and stop line-markings and schedule minor repairs (here and including all other intersections mentioned).

The long-line issues were not the issue addressed in our original letter. The crosswalks and stop line markings are what are in bad shape. When will crews be inspecting these particular crosswalks? It seems like this should be a routinely scheduled inspection throughout the county during the fall and summer season to prepare for increased pedestrian activity once school starts each fall.

Stevens Forest Road at Santiago Road/Camelback Road – Request for flashing lights

The intersection signing (including advance warning signs) and pavement marking stop lines will be assessed for visibility and condition. Flashing lights on stop signs (similar to the LED flashing lights on the stop signs within the Howard County Community College's internal private parking lot) are not approved for use on State and County public roadways.

This does not really address the scope of the issue. We would like the county to address the feasibility of overhead flashing lights. These ARE used elsewhere in the county. One specific location is at the intersection of Frederick Road and Toll House Road – screenshot attached.

Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, we do not have a Capital Project for a permanent streetscape project on Stevens Forest Road in the near future.

We will continue to discuss budgetary items with Councilmember Dr. Jones.

It is noted that observations of driver compliance to regulation is mentioned in the letter body. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Howard County Police at (410) 313-2929 for enforcement requests.

Thank you for continuing the effort to address the safety of this roadway. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person or virtually, at your convenience. Please contact our village manager, Sandy Cederbaum, manager@oaklandmills.org to set up a meeting.