



SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE

September 13, 2023

Mr. Seifu Kerse, Area Engineer
Traffic Engineering Studies Section
Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Kerse:

I am writing in response to the proposed turn restriction at Leland Street and Brookville Road in Chevy Chase. Section 5 is very concerned with the current proposal.

As we have stated in numerous communications, we are in full agreement that there is too much cut-through traffic in this area. We have repeatedly petitioned the County to address the root of the issue, the traffic light at East West Highway and Connecticut Avenue. The current set up going west from East West Highway toward Connecticut Avenue is not adequate for the number of cars travelling on the road and creates long delays in the morning and evening rush hours. Specifically, the left turn lane needs adjusting. We are pleased that MCDOT is recognizing the traffic issues in this area, but we are concerned that the “solution” being offered is short-sighted and will create additional and potentially worse problems.

Any one turn restriction on Brookville Road will negatively impact all the neighboring streets. In this case, a restriction on Leland Street will send additional traffic to Woodbine Street and Williams Lane. Both streets are narrow—indeed significantly narrower than Leland—and essentially one-lane due to street parking on the south side. These streets already see significant cut-through traffic; taking away an additional route only compounds the problem. Separately, there is nothing to stop commuters from taking a right from Brookville onto Woodbine, a right on Glendale Road, and then left onto Leland again; meaning that only the neighbors at the east end of Leland see any possible benefit from the restriction. There are 32 homes on this stretch of Leland Street, ten of which fall within Section 5 boundaries. There are also seven additional homes in Section 5 on Leland Court, a cul-de-sac, which is solely accessed from Leland Street near Connecticut Avenue. We are troubled that MCDOT is looking to close part of a municipal street without the consent of the municipality.

I know that you spoke to our Town Manager, Ashley Kavanaugh, today and suggested a meeting between MCDOT, representatives of the Hamlet Citizens' Association, and Section 5. We appreciate the offer and welcome the opportunity. As you noted, we believe that this meeting should take place before any public hearing is set. We look forward to talking with you and your team. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

GREGORY S. CHERNACK
Chair, Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase