

June 13, 2018

Mr. Andrew Tsai, PE, Project Manager
M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
9500 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, MD. 20901

Dear Mr. Tsai,

The undersigned residents of Kennedy Drive do NOT support the current configuration of upper Little Falls Parkway (LFP). It was a knee-jerk reaction to an unfortunate accident, and does not meet the objective of making travel safer and preventing future incidents.

In fact, the design has created new safety issues by abruptly ending the right lane, causing cars to either take an unanticipated right turn or swerve into the left lane. Meanwhile, walkers and bikers cross the road at their leisure, at any given moment, often not looking both ways. The traffic at rush hour in particular can be very frustrating. Usage on both the trail and LFP is heavier at this time, resulting in cars moving at a snails pace and horns honking while waiting for bikers and pedestrians to cross LFP. It's ridiculous to reduce this major thoroughfare to one lane!

An unforeseen result has been an increase in cut-through traffic into the Kenwood neighborhood, as cars try to avoid the congestion on LFP. Aided by apps such as WAZE, drivers are directed into our neighborhood onto several of the streets. Not only do drivers cut through, but they disobey the posted Do Not Enter and One Way signs, especially on Kennedy Drive, and speed up the wrong direction. There have been numerous near-misses as residents exit their driveways, and have to take evasive action to avoid unexpected cars coming from the wrong direction. Pedestrians are at risk too, having to reel in their dogs or strollers to avoid being hit by frustrated drivers hurrying up/down our street (we have narrow streets and no sidewalks.) Walking to the park on Kennedy Dr. can be a harrowing experience!

The best solution would be a pedestrian bridge (or tunnel) over LFP. An alternative would be to co-locate the crossing of the trail with the lights where LFP intersects with Arlington Road or Hillandale Avenue, giving everyone a controlled and safer chance to cross the road. In the interim, removal of the (unsightly) cones blocking the right lane would be acceptable.

The county has made safety a priority, as touted by the release of the newly passed budget. Remedying the problem of this major thoroughfare should be part of that initiative. We strongly urge community input into any proposed solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
The residents of Kennedy Drive

Lynn and Jim Alexander (6100)
Rosannah and Win Bennett (6211)
Erin Egan and Borzou Blabani (6401)
Pamela and Michael Campbell (6115)
Ginger and Richard Dietrich (6111)
Donna and Bill Eacho (6223)
Chesney and Tim Eden (6205)
Lindsay and Henry Ellenbogen (6608)
Molly and Malloy Evans (6613)
Kate and Fred Jahnig (6101)
Dona Jones (6604)
Anne Marie and Tim Kirlin (6417)

Howie and Stephanie Lewin (6104)
Tamara and Robin Lloyd (6215)
Angie Marriott (6409)
Amanda and Alex Marshall (6219)
Mary Eileen and John Morrissey (6212)
Jeanie and Edward Motsinger (6400)
Laureen and Les Nicholson (6600)
Ann Marie Etergino and Jim Paragamian (6204)
Michele and Tom Ridge (6105)
Jill and David Scharff (6612)
Joan and Bill Sherwin (6201)
Barbara and Thomas Thomason (6008)
Tammy and Todd Wincup (6207)