

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



May 15, 2015

Jonathan Bender
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E
c/o Lisner Home
5425 Western Avenue NW, Suite 219
Washington, DC 20015
jonbender@gmail.com

**Re: Pedestrian and Traffic Concerns
Wisconsin Avenue, NW at River Road, NW and at the access to Whole Foods**

Dear Commissioner Bender:

The following letter is being sent in order to update you on the progress of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT's) assessment of the pedestrian safety concerns on Wisconsin Avenue, NW at the intersections with River Road, NW and the Whole Foods driveway/Best Buy entrance. These concerns were brought to the attention of the DDOT Transportation Operations Administration (TOA) in an email from the Office of Councilmember Mary Cheh on March 23, 2015.

To assess these concerns, a site visit was conducted on April 1, 2015. During this visit, the following issues were noted:

- Drivers traveling southeastbound on River Road, NW making a right-turn onto Wisconsin Avenue, NW frequently execute this turn and then fail to stop at the red light at the intersection to the south (with the Whole Foods driveway);
- There are a lack of pavement markings and pedestrian signals at the Whole Foods driveway and at the driveway across from River Road, NW; and
- There are currently narrow sidewalks on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

Following the site visit, TOA performed a safety analysis using the existing site visit observations and current traffic data. The safety analysis identified short- and long-term improvements in response to the submitted request. The following short-term signing and striping improvements are proposed to enhance the pedestrian environment in the study area:

- Stripe high-visibility ladder crosswalks at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue, NW and River Road, NW;
- Install pedestrian warning signage for the crosswalk at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue, NW and the Whole Foods driveway;
- Install warning signage on River Road, NW at the intersection with Wisconsin Avenue, NW for the downstream signal at the Whole Foods driveway; and
- Install pedestrian markings across the Whole Foods driveway and the driveway across from River Road, NW.

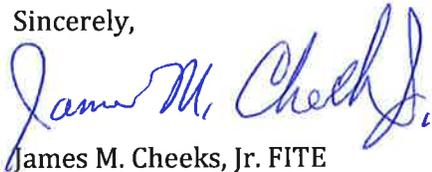
Because the Whole Foods driveway and the driveway across from River Road are both private

driveways, DDOT will recommend enhanced right turn only signage improvements at the Whole Foods driveway and suggest converting the driveway across from River Road, NW to one-way eastbound. DDOT plans to move forward with the above signing and striping improvements within the next 60 days. DDOT will also work with the property owners to implement the recommended upgrades on private property.

Additionally, DDOT staff will look at ways of implementing some potential long-term recommendations, such as redesigning the intersections of Wisconsin Avenue, NW with River Road, NW and with the Whole Foods driveway to incorporate pedestrian signals; reconstructing the River Road, NW curb line to improve the intersection alignment; reconstructing the Whole Foods driveway curb line to improve the turn radius and install ADA ramps; and widening the existing sidewalk along northbound Wisconsin Avenue, NW, potentially as a part of public space improvements in future redevelopment of properties along northbound Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at (202) 671-1497 or at james.cheeks@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James M. Cheeks, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James M. Cheeks, Jr. FITE
Chief Traffic Engineer
Transportation Operations Administration