

July 19, 2022

The Honorable Howard Long  
Boonsboro Town Hall  
21 North Main Street  
Boonsboro MD 21713

Dear Mayor Long:

This correspondence is in regard to the ongoing discussions surrounding proposed development on the north side of Boonsboro along MD 66/Maple Avenue. The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) would like to offer our view of the long-term transportation goals for this corridor.

The connection of Chase Six Boulevard to Maple Avenue has been part of the town's planning concept for quite some time. The MDOT SHA is not in the position to make determinations on planning or zoning decisions in incorporated areas, but rather to support safe, responsible access to State-maintained roadways and to balance the needs of all roadway users. As you know, the process to gain approval of proposed access to Maple Avenue has been through many iterations on account of limitations of property rights along the road and the presence of a significant overhead utility line. Additionally, because the new access point generates enough traffic to warrant the installation of a traffic signal, discussions regarding the safest way to cross pedestrians to the new portion of the housing development have been a key point of the approval process.

Separate from the proposed development, there have been issues raised by citizens of the town, local law enforcement, and school bus drivers. The amount of traffic generated by the school complex, particularly at dismissal, creates a travel demand that the overall road network in town was never intended to handle. Students and families are choosing walk routes, which may not reflect a pedestrian safety mindset. Similarly, school buses were routed through town on local streets to reach areas south of the town.

While discussing these issues in Fall 2021, along with the proposed signal for Chase Six Boulevard, the MDOT SHA noted that while the new signal associated with the housing development would provide some amount of traffic advantage, the offset between the existing school exit and the new signal would present long-term challenges. The development team attempted various alternate access points along their available frontage but could not successfully alleviate the offset.

The Honorable Howard Long  
Page Two

Town councilmembers present at the meeting proposed a realignment of the school exit, coupled with a modified alignment of Chase Six Blvd, to create a four-way signal-controlled intersection. The MDOT SHA agrees with this concept and continues to support it, both as a sustainable form of traffic control and a means of balancing roadway user needs. Consolidated access points and including a meaningful pedestrian network support a contextual change to the corridor will help improve driver compliance and overall safety well into the future.

The MDOT SHA thanks the town for its continued partnership as we work toward a safe, well-maintained, and reliable highway system for all users. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Linda Puffenbarger, MDOT SHA District 6 Assistant District Engineer for Traffic, at 301-729-8444, toll-free 800-760-7138, or via email at [lzerbee@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:lzerbee@mdot.maryland.gov). Ms. Puffenbarger will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Anthony F.K. Crawford, P.E.  
District Engineer

cc: Ms. Linda Puffenbarger, Assistant District Engineer Traffic, District 6, MDOT SHA