



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., *Governor*
Michael S. Steele, *Lt. Governor*

Robert L. Flanagan, *Secretary*
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

Maryland Department of Transportation

March 27, 2006

Fred Nichols, Managing Partner
Nichols Development, LLC
18623 Brooke Road
Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Ashton Meeting Place development and the State Highway Administration's (SHA's) MD 108 at MD 650 congestion-relief and safety project. Your continued interest and support of this project is greatly appreciated.

The SHA performed a congestion relief study (CRS) in the late 1990s to identify the intersections in Prince George's County and Montgomery County that experienced the highest levels of congestion. The intersection of MD 108 with MD 650 was identified as part of that study, and recommendations were made to improve operations and reduce delays at that location. The project was taken through the design process, but was not funded for construction at that time.

In May, 2004, SHA reevaluated the proposed improvements. The existing approaches to this intersection are experiencing significant congestion, created primarily by mid-block, left-turning vehicles. The results of this reevaluation confirmed that the original CRS improvements, with the addition of a center turn lane on the west leg of MD 108, would help to mitigate the recurring congestion and improve safety at this intersection. Design work was reinitiated, and the project is currently funded for construction.

Our need to complete these improvements, though unrelated to the Ashton Meeting Place development, provides a mutually beneficial opportunity. Nichols Development, LLC has indicated its willingness to dedicate any right-of-way frontage needed to accomplish SHA's goals for this intersection improvement and has been very helpful in resolving storm water management plans. These expressions of willingness go beyond what is being required as part of the access permit process for Ashton Meeting Place, considered alone. At the same time, they will allow us to improve operations for all motorists traveling through this intersection, including those traveling to and from the proposed Ashton Meeting Place development. We assure you that we remain committed to the intersection and roadway improvements at MD 650 and MD 108, and we are confident that all remaining issues will be resolved soon, allowing construction to proceed this Fall.

My telephone number/toll-free number is 410-545-0400 or 1-800-206-0770
Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

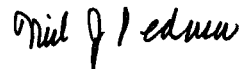
Street Address: 707 North Calvert Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 • Phone: 410.545.0300 • www.marylandroads.com



Mr. Fred Nichols
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Thank you, again, for your letter. We look forward to working in cooperation with you as we implement this important project. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Phillips, Project Manager, Community Design Division, SHA at 410-545-8823, toll-free 888-228-5092 or via email at dphillips@sha.state.md.us. SHA will be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,



Neil J. Pedersen
Administrator

cc: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Maryland House of Delegates
The Honorable Rona E. Kramer, Senate of Maryland
Mr. Darrell B. Mobley, District Engineer, SHA
The Honorable Karen S. Montgomery, Maryland House of Delegates
Mr. David Phillips, Project Manager, Community Design Division, SHA
The Honorable Herman L. Taylor, Maryland House of Delegates