

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Gerald L. Brady
1804 Shallcross Avenue
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

Dear Representative Brady:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, with your kind words on my recent reappointment by Governor Markell as Secretary of Transportation. I look forward to working with you and this new administration as we formulate solutions during these challenging times. I have also reviewed the concerns you have regarding the proposed entrance permit to the Greenville Center from Buck Road.

The Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is aware that there is an active exploratory plan for the east side of Kennett Pike (Route 52) along the north side of Buck Road (Project #20080272 – Greenville Center Subdivision Land Development). This project proposes adding 78,000 square feet with associated parking creating a mixed use development.

This project is still in the early planning and design phase, and as it goes through the land use process, be assured that DelDOT will review the comprehensive traffic study required by the county.

Regarding the first concern in your letter: A comprehensive traffic study should be required by New Castle County. DelDOT will review the study and list the necessary roadway and intersection improvements if the county chooses to approve the land use plan. The developers will be responsible to pay for the improvements. However, as part of our regular maintenance responsibilities, there would be additional expenses to the state for the perpetual maintenance of the roadways and signals.

Addressing your second concern about the potential safety hazards regarding Buck Road: The necessary geometric design elements determined from the traffic study would meet the design criteria from highway design standards and, as such, should mitigate the probability of crashes. However, the most significant parameter to predicting crashes is traffic volume. The more traffic entering an intersection will naturally increase the possibilities for crashes. Good geometric design would help keep the number of crashes at or below the number of crashes we would expect. The department's review would ensure that good geometry is planned.

Your final point regarding preserving the historic nature of the Brandywine Valley: We could not agree with you more. However, the final decision on this proposed project rests with the New Castle County Planning and Land Use Department and their coordination with the State's Planning Department.

Sincerely,

Carolann Wicks
Secretary of Transportation

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CW:rks

cc: Darrel Cole, Director, Public Relations
Terry Gorlich, Legislative Liaison, Public Relations
Steven Tanzer, Legislative Assistant
Marc Coté, Subdivision Engineer, Planning
Brian Urbanek, Area Engineer, Maintenance & Operations
Tom Meyer, Manager, Traffic Studies
Sandy Roumillat, Deputy Manager, Public Relations
Robert King, Community Relations Officer, Public Relations