

**Jennifer and Roger Fajman**  
17922 Pond Road  
Ashton, Maryland 20861

October 12, 2008

John D. Porcari, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21706

Dear Secretary Porcari:

We have written a letter to Neil Pedersen concerning the funding of road improvements in Ashton, at the intersection of Route 108 and New Hampshire Avenue. We received a very polite reply explaining why the improvements are not being funded. We are writing you to implore you to make this funding a state priority.

We are aware of the State budgetary issues and know that there are many road improvements in the State that have not been funded. However, the funds for the intersection improvements had previously been approved, but were diverted to other projects when the Ashton Meeting Place development at the southeast corner was delayed in the Montgomery County planning process. We urge you to restore the funding for the improvements.

The improvements to the intersection have been designed, the traffic studies completed, the community has reviewed and agreed on the design, and there are no outstanding issues of land availability. The only issue remaining is funding.

Without the improvements, the safety of the intersection will continue to be a major problem. There have been a number of serious accidents there. The planned sidewalk, bike path, walk-don't walk signals, and added left and right turn lanes would go a long way towards addressing the safety problems. We also hope to see a walkable community and, given the way the intersection is currently designed, it is difficult and dangerous to cross the intersection on foot. The intersection is near Sherwood High School, so a lot of high school students walk to the area.

In May 2008, Montgomery County approved the building of a rural shopping area, Ashton Meeting Place, at the southeast corner of the intersection. The design has taken a number of years to complete, insuring that it conforms to the area Master Plan and making sure that it will fit into a rural area. Ashton Meeting Place will bring more services to the community and will provide more walkable areas. Without the intersection improvements, Ashton Meeting Place cannot be built. This will be a significant loss to the community.

If you need any more information from us, please contact us by phone at 301-570-9065 or email at [jennifer@fajman.org](mailto:jennifer@fajman.org) and/or [roger@fajman.org](mailto:roger@fajman.org).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fajman

Roger Fajman

cc: Royce Hanson, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Anne Kaiser, State Delegate  
Michael Knapp, Montgomery County Delegate  
Rona Kramer, State Senator  
Michelle Layton, SSARPC  
Karen Montgomery, State Delegate  
Fred Nichols, Developer  
Neil Pedersen, State Highway Administrator  
Donald Praisner, Montgomery County Delegate  
Joshua Sloan, Montgomery County Planning Staff  
Herman Taylor, State Delegate