



September 29, 2016

Rysheema Dixon, Chair
Strategy Consultant
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

The Honorable Jennifer Cohan
DelDOT Secretary
800 Bay Road
PO Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

William Swiatek, Vice Chair
Senior Planner
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Dr. Hanifa G. N. Shabazz,
Councilperson
City of Wilmington

RE: New Castle Avenue Road Conditions & D Street Sign

Secretary Cohan:

Marie Reed,
President
Southbridge Civic Association

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) is a collaborative partnership of Southbridge residents and dozens of government, nonprofit and private agencies. The mission of the network is to serve as a vehicle for information-sharing and the leveraging of resources on collaborative projects to improve the community's quality of life. We have enjoyed partnering with DelDOT over the years on beneficial projects in Southbridge, such as a nationally-recognized Safe Routes to School Program and an ongoing streetscape project.

Travis Smith, Sr.,
President
Southbridge Business Association

Charles A. Madden,
Executive Director
Wilmington HOPE Commission

We are writing today to express concern with the ongoing poor condition of New Castle Avenue, a key artery which passes through Southbridge. A recent concrete patching project did successfully repair many craters, but conditions remain rough on the roadway. Most notably, the crossing at the railroad tracks at the southern edge of the neighborhood is in especially poor condition. Jagged bumps force vehicles traveling north into Wilmington to veer and hastily slow down, while craters remain along the road, north of the crossing, creating further treacherous driving conditions as well. Two pictures of conditions here are enclosed.

Alison Windle,
Executive Director
Neighborhood House

Deborah Wiggin Neff,
Population Health Specialist
Nemours Health & Prevention Services

Jim Black,
Consultant
Delaware Partnership for Sustainability

Additionally, as part of an assessment of street signage last year, we reported several deteriorating signs to the City of Wilmington. They, in turn, relayed concerns to DelDOT for signs which were the responsibility of the state. We are happy to report that most of the signs have been replaced. However, one unreadable sign remains along the right-hand side of the D Street sweep from Heald Street. At one time, the sign read "Wilmington Keep Left;" today it is rust covered, unreadable, and forgotten. We ask that the state remove and/or replace this sign. A picture of the sign is enclosed.

Patricia Kelleher,
Executive Director
Delaware Housing Coalition

Victor Perez,
Assistant Professor
University of Delaware

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at: 302 - 419 - 4938 or rysheema.dixon@gmail.com.

Gina Moody,
Principal
Elbert-Palmer Elementary School

Brittany Salen,
EJ Outreach Coordinator
Clean Air Council

Sincerely,


Randi Novakoff,
Chairperson

Rysheema Dixon
South Wilmington Planning Network, Chair
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center Consultant