

From: John Dacey <rugby007@aol.com>

To: aaron_larocca <aaron_larocca@nps.gov>

Subject: GW Parkway Safety Survey

Date: Fri, Jul 26, 2019 9:49 am

Sir:

First of all, why isn't there a hyperlink from the GWP webpage to the comments page? "Online through the park Planning, Environment & Public Comment webpage" isn't helpful at all, doesn't tell us where to go to post comments.

My comments, as a 17-year resident of Fort Hunt, driving the GWP, almost its entire length, daily for more than 17 years:

Enforce the speed limit.

Enforce the speed limit.

Enforce the speed limit.

A law is not a law if it is not enforced.

Motorcyclists use this as a high-speed test track on the weekends; I can hear them from my house in Stratford Landing. Commuters routinely are going 65mph and faster in all areas, both directions, including the run-up to the Mt. Vernon circle. The 35mph zone from Alex to Belle Haven routinely averages over 50mph. This is why you get the horrific t-bone crashes at Belle Haven, Belle View, and Morningside.

If officers/cars is an issue--likely--use mobile speed cameras. If everyone knows--as they do in DC with their static and mobile cameras--that if you speed you will get a ticket, speeds will come down and stay down. The "your speed is..." trailer does not mitigate speeding in any way. The ticket revenue can help pay for needed repairs.

Enforce the "no commercial vehicles" restriction.

Box trucks, 18-wheelers, and contractors with trailers are constantly on the roadway. Enforce the reg and they will get off the GWP.

Restrict left turns from the Parkway where there are no turn lanes.

Where there is no left turn lane off the Parkway, there should be no left turns from the Parkway in either direction of travel, like at Waynewood, Wellington, Chadwick, E/W Boulevard Drive, Morningside. Even if cars were adhering to the 45mph speed limit, the absence of left-turn lanes and allowed turns is a huge safety issue.

Restrict left turns across the traffic onto the Parkway.

This is the problem at Belle Haven, Belle View, Morningside, etc., with cars

pushing/rushing to turn left across two lanes of speeding traffic, merging into two lanes of speeding traffic.

Restrict all such left turns onto the parkway through the use of movable plastic baffles, such as those in use for the I-495 toll lanes.

If there are turn lanes on the Parkway, such as Stratford Lane, Collingwood, and Tulane, allow left turns onto the Parkway. Belle View is a special case; my vote would be to not allow left turns onto the Parkway from Belle View or Belle Haven.

Maintain and repair the roadway.

There are a number of spots in the southern reaches of the GWP that are safety issues. These problems are aggravating factors when drivers are speeding:

Northbound:

the slowly eroding/rupture for the creek pipeline just south of the Fort Hunt Park exit. The problem is below the roadway, and is worsening.

the two panels in the right lane between Fort Hunt Park and Morningside. Asphalt patches are making this worse; the concrete panels need to be replaced.

the huge ridge in the road immediately north of Morningside. A "Rough Road" sign is not adequate for this safety hazard. This needs immediately replacement.

the broken pavement in the roadway in the right lane just south of Wellington Rd

Southbound:

Same comment about the ridge immediately north of Morningside.

Same comment about the creek underpass south of Fort Hunt Park

And, of course, the entire length of the Parkway needs resurfacing between Spout Run and I-495. It's not just in disrepair; it's a safety issue, especially given the high speeds being used on this part of the roadway.

DO NOT put up stoplights. That will make the speeding worse.

John Dacey
2207 Wittington Blvd
Fort Hunt, VA 22308
703-780-5859

