

George Washington Memorial Parkway  
ATTN: Alexandria to Mount Vernon Safety Study  
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway  
c/o Turkey Run Park  
McLean, Virginia 22101

July 19, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of the Belle View condominiums and have been at my current residence for over two (2) years. One of the reasons that we moved to this area was the proximity to the Potomac and what appeared to be accessibility to the bike trails. I have two girls –ages 9 and 11- and I would love to have them be able to ride their bikes on the bike trail. However, that has never happened during the time that we have lived here –it is just not safe for them to get there.

There is no traffic light or cross-walk at the Intersection of Belle View Boulevard and the Parkway –despite the hundreds of bike riders and pedestrian trail users that attempt to navigate their way across the five (5) lanes of the Parkway to the trail every week. I do ride my bike on the trail and I choose to do that during non-rush hour times on weekdays. Even at that time on more than one occasion I have been nearly run over by drivers on the parkway speeding past when I am crossing to get to the bike path.

We live in close proximity to the intersection of Belle View Boulevard and the Parkway. During our time in Belle View I have seen over twenty (20+) accidents at this intersection–many of them serious enough to warrant full EMS, fire and police response, resulting in the closure of one if not both lanes going in either direction.

This past spring as I was waiting to turn left onto Belle View Boulevard from the parkway I witnessed an accident less than five (5) feet in front of me. A vehicle on Belle View was attempting to turn left onto the north-bound lanes of the parkway and (as all drivers do in that spot) had an obstructed view of on-coming traffic –there are three south-bound lanes to cross; a lane turning right onto Belle View and two parkway lanes heading south-bound. The driver turning north onto the parkway could only see cars in the turning lane and the first of the two south-bound lanes –however, they proceeded. The driver attempting to turn north-bound onto the parkway could not see the vehicle in the second south-bound lane because it was being blocked by the vehicle in the first south-bound lane. The driver in the second south-bound vehicle could not see the driver turning north onto the parkway and the resulting collision impacted the entire driver's side of the turning vehicle and nearly hit my vehicle as well.

The intersection at Belle View Boulevard and the parkway is a major thoroughfare. My building faces the parkway –on our side of the building there are six (6) children under the age of twelve. My building is one (1) of ten (10) that face the parkway. Whenever there are accidents at the intersection of Belle View Boulevard and the Parkway the street my building is on –Boulevard View- is used like an access road by drivers being diverted from the parkway onto Belle View Boulevard. These drivers have been on the Parkway and are used to speeding there, so they pull

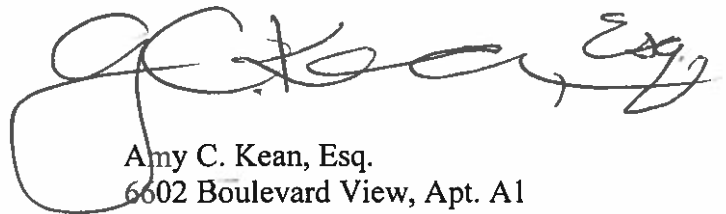
onto Boulevard View at the same rate of speed that they use on the Parkway. I have spoken to the police at the accident scenes directing traffic away from the parkway and have even pointed out vehicles speeding away on my street. The police have repeatedly told me there is nothing that they can (or will) do to stop this type of activity.

I understand that the Parkway was envisioned as a scenic tourist location –however, at this point the realities of life in Northern Virginia have obliterated that original purpose in certain areas. I love being a Belle View resident, it is a beautiful neighborhood and its proximity to the Potomac and the bike trails should be something that my family can enjoy. However, my kids cannot enjoy it and at times, it is barely safe enough for them to be on their own street. One morning while I was getting my girls into our car to take them to school I was nearly hit by a speeding driver on our street who yelled at me and then turned onto the Parkway and sped away.

There is no reason that a traffic light, cross walk marked intersection and crossing light are not in place right now at the intersection of Belle View Boulevard and the Parkway. I am not sure how many people need to be killed at this intersection before something is done about it -but one death would be too many for me. It would be great to think that whatever police department has jurisdiction over this area would listen to residents and actually start enforcing the speed limits. But something like that will never impact the speeding like a traffic light and marked cross walk will.

Please do something about this, before a child or pedestrian are killed due to this unsafe condition. I am sure that I am not the only resident of the area bringing this to your attention, so you are on notice that the intersection is making this heavily residential area unsafe. The time to fix it is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy C. Kean, Esq.", written in a cursive style.

Amy C. Kean, Esq.  
6602 Boulevard View, Apt. A1  
Alexandria, VA 22307