



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 24, 2013

James M. Cheeks, Jr., Chief Traffic Engineer
Transportation Operations Administration
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Cheeks:

I am writing in response to the District Department of Transportation's recent submission of the updated traffic signalization proposal to improve safety and traffic operations at Chevy Chase Circle, which is managed by Rock Creek Park.

Unfortunately, we are unable to support this proposal. As you acknowledged in your May 5, 2013 email to us, the District's Urban Forestry Administration has determined that the proposed location and configuration of the signalization poles "would not be good for the trees" in Chevy Chase Circle. These findings are supported by the park's arborist and horticulturalist, who have concluded that the signals and their supporting infrastructure could damage the roots of the trees and endanger their long-term survival.

We look forward to working with you and the Department of Transportation, should you seek other alternatives for improving safety in and around Chevy Chase Circle. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Superintendent Cynthia Cox at 202-895-6004, or by email at cindy_cox@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Tara Morrison
Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

CC: Karen McManus, Office of Congressman Christopher Van Hollen