

Mayor Paul Gordon
City of Frederick
Frederick, Md. 21701

8/29/ 91

Dear Mr. Gordon,

Seeing a city road-painting crew on Waverly Drive this morning reminds me that for at least five years I've been trying to get the city to paint urgently needed white stripes along the edges of Shockstown Road. I spoke to the man in charge of that work each of at least three years. He agreed that it is necessary. I spoke to you about it at the Steen's barbecue, when you said it would be taken care of automatically beginning in about two months when there was to have been work on the road that hasn't been done and now appears not likely to be done at least for some time.

I can't remember a time, including right now, when part of a snapped-off utility pole was not visible. It is a narrow road, without shoulders, and with most of the many utility poles almost on the road itself, some not much more than a foot from it.

This particular stretch of road is often fog-shrouded early mornings. There are no lights to illuminate the edges.

When there is mist it is really a very dangerous stretch of road.

A few stretches of it had had the white borders painted on but when they were resurfaced the paint was obliterated and never replaced.

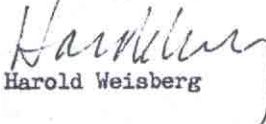
I presume the cost will be slight and that the city can do the work itself.

I do hope that you will have this work done now, before the time of the year when these mists are most frequent.

Over the years I've spoken to a number of people who use this road regularly. They all agree on the dangers and on the need for the edges to be marked. The man in charge always agreed.

I hope you will please get it done. Many of us will appreciate it. Thanks if you do.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

Mayor Paul Gordon
City of Frederick
Frederick, Md. 21701

9/25/91

Dear Mayor Gordon,

The very dangerous situation on Shookstown Road from the absence of outside road stripes was so bad yesterday morning at about 4:45 that because the ground fog was so dense I actually drove past Waverly Drive before I realized it. That was when I was past the trees that kept me from seeing the street lights. I was then close to the narrow bridge that is at a sharp bend. Not being able to see the edge of the road all the time I feared driving to Willowdale and because there was no traffic I could back up and take Waverly to Rt. 40 instead of using Willowdale, as I'd intended.

I wrote you still again about this recently ^{and} as is your wont you ignored that letter, too. I remind you that I discussed this with you and for at least three years the city agreed that those inexpensive road stripes are necessary - and did not paint them on.

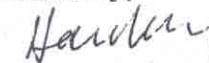
The one thing that is comprehensible in this is how you have made yourself so widely unpopular so fast, in this instance by your non-responsiveness. ^{is} If this had been a complaint that you and the city before you agreed pertains to a real need and a real danger, ^{is} even then your notion that elected officials need not respond ~~would still be~~ ^{only not to meet them} a departure from the norm. Elected officials do not seek to assume public responsibilities (and citizens do not write them only to be ignored. That is an authoritarian, not a democratic position.

As I told you recently, I've seen painting crews in the area and they have not done what the city promised to do years ago.

There is nothing I can do to make you perform your responsibilities. But I can assure you that if there is the kind of accident that is possible I'll do all I can to let it be known that it is your fault because it will be. I certainly hope that if there is an accident it will not involve hitting one of the many utility poles that are almost on the road surface, there being no shoulder.

The danger is not going to go away. There are times when there always is ground fog, particularly at the lowest points closer to the creek. It would be less dangerous if the edges of the road were visible. The cost of painting the road stripes cannot be great. So, I guess you've made a record that you don't give a damn about human life and suffering. I sincerely hope you do not have to live with this because of a preventable accident but if there is one now, it will be the city's fault and yours personally.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

10/24/91

Mayor Paul Gordon
City of Frederick,
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mayor Gordon,

Thank you very much for the pleasant surprise!

Driving into town, as far as the bridge-repair work, the white line has been painted on the edges of Shockstown Road, as I saw.

I presume that the same will be done on the other short stretch, to Baughman's lane.

Beginning at Montevue there had been a white stripe. It was obliterated when the surface was ~~recoated~~ recoated several years ago.

There it had had the additional value of helping avoid damage to the lawns and shrubbery of the houses so close to the road.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg