

Comments: Mt. Vernon at Long Island Proposal

“Hello,

I understand that there is a proposal at hand to install a traffic light at the intersection of Long Island Drive and My. Vernon Highway. While I agree there is a need for improvement to facilitate northbound traffic on Long Island attempting to make a left or right turn on to Mt. Vernon I strong disagree with the traffic light proposal. I think the proposal will unnecessarily impede traffic most times of the day, and days of the week. I am certain that a better solution can be devised which will result in a better use of tax payer money and at the same time not impede traffic flow on the three roadways that will be affected by a traffic light: Long Island Drive, Mt. Vernon Highway and Hammond Drive.

Thank you for noting my objection to the Longs Island Mt. Vernon proposal.

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Please see also see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding alternatives.

I am writing to you after being made aware by a neighbor of the project to install a traffic light at the intersection of Long Island Dr and Mount Vernon Hwy.

I appreciate the City's attention to this intersection, which does present a problem as presently designed giving poor visibility for drivers on Long Island Dr (driving north), attempting to turn east or west onto Mt Vernon. However, I believe that installing a traffic light could make things even worse considering that just some feet away there is another light at the intersection of Hammond Rd and Mount Vernon Hwy. This could create an even worse traffic jam that sometimes happens on this intersection.

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

I would support a different alternative that could give better visibility to the cars going north on Long Island Dr. so they could either turn Left (west) or Right (east) on Mount Vernon without risks for all cars. Im sure the city and consultant companies can work out a better solution.

Best regards

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Please see also see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding alternatives.

Good morning,

I live on Montrose Lane, 2 blocks south of Mt. Vernin Highway off Long Island Drive, and am very familiar with the traffic problem on Mt. Vernon Highway. I was told years ago at a previous meeting at City Hall that a traffic light could not be installed at that intersection because of its proximity to the light at Mt. Vernon and Hammond (within 500 feet). However, I am in favor of a policeman helping to diffuse the traffic during the peak hours in the morning and afternoon. It is a serious problem for those of us trying to get out on Mt. Vernon, and I will appreciate whatever could be done to remedy that situation.

Many thanks,

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Using police officers to manage traffic can provide temporary relief but is a short-term solution that doesn't address the underlying issues causing congestion.

We have lived on L. I. Drive for 26 years and experience the issues with that intersection. We appreciate the City researching the problems and suggestion solutions for improvement.

From personal experience I can tell you that I have had quite a few serious accident near missis due to the lack of visibility when trying to make a left turn from L. I. Dr onto Mt. Vernon.

With a traffic light close by at the Hammond Rd. intersection, another traffic light does not seem to be the correct answer. It will disrupt and slow the heavy Mt. Vernon east west traffic flow and slow

traffic on L.I. Dr too. It doesn't seem possible to efficiently sequence the lights at Hammond and L.I. Dr.

We greatly appreciate the City addressing this situation and hope that an alternative solution can surface.

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Please see also see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding alternatives.

I do not think a light is necessary. I have never seen a very long line of cars trying to merge onto Mt. Vernon.

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

This email is to register my **disagreement** with the City's proposed plan regarding the above noted project.

On this past Thursday October 17 I attended the information meeting at City Hall regarding the above project, and at that meeting I had the opportunity to discuss this project at length with Wesley Waters of the City's Public Works Dept, and Matt Dysco of Kimley-Horn, and several others.

First, let me say that I appreciate the City's attention to this intersection, which does present a problem as presently designed. The problem at this intersection, clear and simple, is visibility for drivers on Long Island Dr, attempting to turn east or west onto Mt Vernon. Cars turning right pull up close and block the view of drivers/cars turning left, and vice versa.

Second, and most importantly, let me say that I strongly disagree with the City's proposed solution, the main element of which is the addition of a traffic light. A traffic light will unnecessarily slow traffic from all directions at this intersection, especially on Mt Vernon Hwy. This east/west roadway moves smoothly now, which should not be taken for granted. A traffic light will unnecessarily slow this traffic (regardless of any attempt at "sequencing" with the light at Mt Vernon and Hammond, as there is a lot of westbound traffic on Mt Vernon that originates from both Mt Vernon and Hammond at that intersection.)

Further, it was stated to me at the information meeting on 10/17 that a white painted “stop” line in the northbound left-turn lane on Long Island at this intersection would allow for needed visibility improvement for the northbound right-turn lane. Really!!?? How consistently do drivers stop at such white painted lines at intersections?

I go thru this intersection several times, almost every day. I am very familiar with it. A traffic light is not the answer here!! It might be the easy answer, but it’s not the right one. **I ask that the City challenge Public Works and Kimley-Horn** to come back with a solution that does not include a traffic light, and that does not slow the safe and smooth flow of traffic, which of course is ultimately the purpose of our road system. Let’s please not solve one problem and create another.

PS1: While lightly attended, I was told at the 10/17 meeting that most of the comments were concerns / opposition to the addition of a traffic light.

PS2: Traffic lights are quite expensive. While cost in itself is of course not a good reason to forgo installation of a traffic light, I think it is a valid consideration at an intersection where a traffic light is at the very least “questionable”. (It was stated to me on 10/17 that other design solutions might require acquiring right-of-way and/or moving utilities, but the cost savings of foregoing the traffic light were not noted in that same conversation.)

PS3: I am VERY disappointed with the City’s notice to the community, or really lack thereof, regarding this project. I found out about it ONLY thru a social media post. I would hope that, not only for this project, but more so for all future roadway projects, the City would post a prominent sign at the project’s site, AND notify residences in writing that are within about ½ mile or 1 mile of the project site.

Response:

Thank you for attending the open house on October 17 and for sharing your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Please see also see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding alternatives.

Regarding the notice to the community, there was a public meeting sign at the intersection of Mt Vernon and Long Island. It was also posted on the City’s Calendar, Enewsletter, Nextdoor, Facebook Post/Event, Instagram, and Inside Sandy Springs. A media advisory was also issued. Several in attendance were from the neighborhoods adjacent to the project.

(He uses Mt. Paran repeatedly, but we can safely assume he means Mount Vernon)

I am a resident of our city living on Long Island Dr... My family continues to go through thru the referenced intersection every single day that we are at home as we have done for a long time. My daughter and her husband work at Holy Innocents Episcopal School and have two active children playing afterschool sports all at the Methodist Church and facilities that proximity , so that the Mt PARAN intersection is familiar to us. We have lived at that address for 28 years.

The proposed traffic signal is a poorly conceived idea. I am aware of no support for a traffic signal from approved engineering traffic studies, though I recall when Holy Spirit School received a council approval for an Athletic complex on 14 acres along the southern side of I-285, it allowed all traffic to enter and exit on Long Island Dr.. There was no planned stoplight then, but a study was to be undertaken to widen Long Island at the Mt. Paran intersection by adding a right only lane to accommodate the anticipated traffic increase and adding a traffic tri-angle as well. Has anyone thought about that?

There has been no overwhelming growth of housing along Long Island in the nearly three decades my family has lived on Long Island. What absolutely has increased is 'cut through' traffic going in both directions on Long Island, up to and from Roswell Rd. and even that flow has never been a problem for my family. Waiting a few minutes during peak morning and afternoon rush hours is not a critical matter in my opinion. I think your attention should return to consideration of doing some more studies on the Roswell Road log jams between the I-285 East and West Entrance ramps and leave Long Island Dr. alone for another 30 years. Unless Sandy Springs is considering apartment, condominium and mobile home park zoning along lovely and graceful Long Island Dr; then I might change my mind.

Thank you,

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document for more information regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Please see also see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding alternatives.

Hello,

I live on Long Island Drive just before the I-285 overpass as you approach Mt Vernon Highway. I recently learned that Sandy Springs has proposed the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Long Island Drive and Mt. Vernon Highway, and I wanted to share my strong objection to this plan.

I use that intersection on a daily basis, sometimes several times a day, and a traffic light will unnecessarily slow traffic from all directions at this intersection, especially on Mt Vernon Hwy. I ask you to consider a solution that does not include a traffic light and that does not slow the flow of traffic.

Thank you for your continued service to Sandy Springs and its citizens, and I thank you in advance for your attention to this particular project.

Sincerely,

Response:

Thank you for your feedback.

Please see the summary response at the bottom of this document regarding traffic concerns for a new signal.

Summary Response regarding traffic concerns for a new signal:

High traffic volumes on Mount Vernon Highway cause long delays for drivers turning from Long Island Drive, especially during peak hours and the traffic engineering study shows that delays at this intersection will get worse over time, especially during the rush hour.

Additionally, when cars line up in both turn lanes, they block each other's view, making it hard to see oncoming traffic. This poor visibility can lead to risky driving and accidents, disrupting traffic flow. The new signal will help address this by controlling the left-turn movement while allowing right-turn traffic to flow after stopping. This reduces the need for drivers to judge gaps in traffic, creating a safer and more controlled flow of vehicles.

The signal new signal will be coordinated with the Hammond Drive signal to optimize traffic flow on Mount Vernon Highway. According to the signal model, the increase in through-movement delay is expected to be minimal compared to the safety benefits gained.

A copy of the traffic engineering study and memo related to signal timing are available on the project webpage for your reference.

Summary Response regarding alternative solutions:

The City has explored several alternatives to address safety and operational issues at this intersection. These have included an all-way stop, roundabout, and channelized islands. However, these options were found to be less effective or unfeasible due to the intersection's geometry and topography.

According to the traffic study, without any changes (No Build condition), the intersection is projected to operate at Level of Service (LOS) F during the AM and PM peak hours for the northbound and southbound approaches by the year 2043. In contrast, with the proposed signal (Signal Build condition), the intersection is expected to operate at LOS C during peak hours, significantly improving overall traffic flow.
