GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jerrily R. Kress, Director
Office of Zoning

FROM: Kenneth Laden, Associate Director
Transportation Planning and Policy Administration

DATE: June 1, 2004

SUBJECT: Sidwell Friends School, 3825 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
BZA Application Number 17149

The District Department of Transportation has reviewed the Sidwell Friends School (Sidwell) Transportation Study. The following comments outline DDOT's position regarding BZA Application # 17149.

DDOT does not oppose the limited drop-off and pick-up of 5th and 6th graders on 37th Street, NW due to the location of Zavitz Middle School, directly adjacent to the 37th Street curb. Additionally, limiting the 37th Street drop-off and pick-up to 5th and 6th graders will reduce the current drop-off activity on this street from the current daily total of approximately 240 vehicles to approximately 221 vehicles – a reduction of about 19 vehicles even with increasing the current student cap to 850.

DDOT's Traffic Safety Administration (TSA) will need to receive and analyze the specific design plans of the proposed construction before DDOT is able to comment on the proposed retiming of the traffic signal at Wisconsin Avenue and Rodman Street, NW and discuss a construction management plan.

DDOT strongly encourages Sidwell to increase the use of mass transit by both students and employees to 10% in order to reduce vehicle travel to and from the campus. With the campus's close proximity to metro bus and metro rail access, the school should be able to achieve a higher mode split than the current 2% and 3% metro bus usage in the AM and PM, respectively. Sidwell should also strive to achieve a higher vehicle occupancy rate.

DDOT supports the construction of a parking garage on Sidwell's campus. The additional parking spaces will reduce the impact on on-street parking supply on neighboring streets. Again, DDOT will need to receive the actual design plans before construction goes forward. Additionally, due to the construction of a parking garage, DDOT encourages Sidwell to establish a parking hierarchy of usable parking spaces. Students and employees should first fill up the new parking garage, once it is constructed. When/if this garage fills up, students should first park on Quebec Street, NW. Any remaining overflow parking would then be provided on 37th Street. This would limit school parking on 37th Street.

BZA
Case No. 17149
Exhibit No. 38

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17149
EXHIBIT NO. 38