

Peter R. Roy
5329 Belt Road NW
Washington, D.C. 20015

September 22, 2002

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chairman
Zoning Commission
Suite 210 South
441 Fourth Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re. Case ZC 02-17 (Stonebridge Associates) – Traffic Safety Concern

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I have some public safety concerns regarding the proposed parking entry design for the referenced project. I actually don't object to the project as a whole, but I believe that the issues I raise are significant and should be given serious consideration.

The project is on a corner surrounded by various traffic control and pedestrian elements that are in close proximity and which have overlapping effects on each other. This is a fragile balance, especially where vehicles cross pedestrian pathways.

The attached drawing presents my concerns, which have potentially serious traffic safety implications.

In a recent presentation to the ANC, the developer (Stonebridge) said that his original scheme called for entrance by one side of the facility (from Military), and exit by another side (to Western). But he said that he changed the scheme in response to community concerns. I strongly recommend that the developer be required to return to his original scheme, which was much safer from a traffic control standpoint. I raised these issues at the ANC meeting, but I believe that only the developer's staff understood the implications of my concerns.

I would appreciate your actions toward ensuring that these traffic control issues are dealt with in the resulting Zoning Order, if there is one.

Sincerely,



Peter R. Roy

cc. Ms. Jill Diskan, 5315 43rd Street NW, Washington, DC 20015.
Stonebridge Associates.

Attachment: Map with text.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-17
Exhibit 62

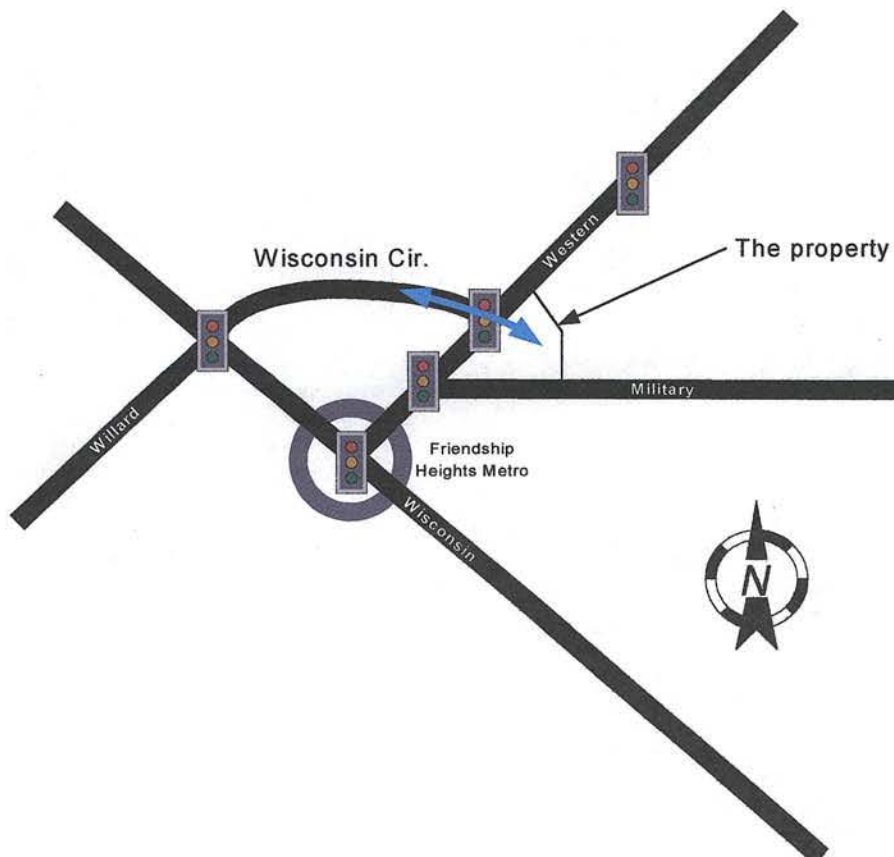
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-17
EXHIBIT NO.62

Re. Case ZC 02-17 (Stonebridge Associates)

(Traffic Safety Concern)

The citizen who prepared this drawing is concerned about the proposed bi-directional traffic flow in/out of the parking garage for the proposed project on the "property" indicated below. The citizen recommends that the intersection with the blue arrow should be restricted to outgoing traffic only (and incoming traffic should be right-turn only entry with deceleration lane from Military), because:

1. When there are 2 or more automobiles attempting to enter the new facility from Western Avenue (making either a left or right turn) that attempt to turn into the proposed project, or that attempt to enter from Wisconsin Circle, the automobiles may be backed up onto Western Avenue (i.e. there is likely to be a traffic control mechanism at the entrance, or pedestrians may be blocking the sidewalk, which will cause the vehicles to slow or stop while still in the intersection), thereby blocking the Western/Wisconsin Circle intersection, which may in turn (a) have a ripple effect on the other controlled intersections (e.g. Military/Western), causing them to also be backed up, and/or (b) increase the possibility of collision between automobiles traveling on Western and the automobiles that are blocking the intersection. Item "b", in particular, is a potentially serious traffic safety problem.
2. As cars enter the facility from Wisconsin Circle, they may encounter a yellow light and attempt to "rush" the intersection, in order to enter the parking in the proposed new facility before the light changes. This is much more dangerous than the normally dangerous intersection rush, because the vehicle must cross an uncontrolled sidewalk (or, if controlled, very difficult to maintain control) as it enters the parking of the new facility. This means that vehicles may be crossing a pedestrian sidewalk at a relatively high rate of speed, thereby endangering the pedestrians.



Prepared by: Peter Roy, 5329 Belt Road NW, Washington, DC 20015.