



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • (304) 558-3505**

December 8, 2010

**Mr. Narvel G. Weese, Jr.
Office of Vice President
West Virginia University
Administration and Finance
104 Stewart Hall
Post Office Box 6205
Morgantown, West Virginia 26506-6205**

Dear Mr. Weese:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 19, 2010, regarding discussions that have taken place among local officials, the Morgantown Monongalia MPO, representatives from this office and our District Four Office, West Virginia University (University), and the local bicycling advisory committee regarding the proposed bicycle lane along the north side of Monongahela Boulevard. We are pleased that the University recognizes the need for the bicycle lane, which we believe would result in far safer operating conditions for those cyclists who presently use Monongahela Boulevard. There is an additional body of cyclists who would be encouraged to use this facility once the bicycle lane is established.

We appreciate the University's need to continue using the space in question for occasional event parking, and the University's offer, through its Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, to assure bicyclists' safety during those limited periods of closure. Consequently, we would like to pursue implementing the bicycle lane under the terms the University has proposed. In order to expedite the project, we request that the University expand upon the proposal outlined in your letter by producing a traffic operations plan for our review. The plan should provide more detail regarding the safe placement of barricades and signing when the lane is closed to bicyclists. If the University so desires, our District Four's personnel could assist in that effort. Based upon comments offered in an earlier meeting on the subject, it is likely that the City of Morgantown would also wish to contribute to the traffic plan. Each specific request for closure would have to be submitted to our District Office for approval.

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Again, thank you for writing. We are anxious to move forward on this project and are offering our staff's services to coordinate a local meeting at your convenience to discuss the matter further. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richard Warner, Planning Section Head with our Program Planning and Administration Division, at (304) 558-9629.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
PAUL A. MATTOX, JR.
Paul A. Mattox, Jr., P. E.
Secretary of Transportation/
Commissioner of Highways**

PAM:Pw

**cc: Mr. Bill Austin, Executive Director, Greater Morgantown MPO
Mr. Terry Hough, Public Works Director/City Engineer, City of Morgantown
Mr. Frank Gmeindl, Morgantown Municipal Bike Board ✓**