

Maryland Route 210
HB 187/CH 586, 2019

A Report to the Governor and
The Maryland General Assembly

July 2021

Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration

Introduction

MD 210 is located in southwestern Prince George's County and runs south from the District of Columbia line to the town of Indian Head in Charles County. MD 210 has made news headlines in recent years due to high-profile crashes, including eight fatalities in 2020. As a result, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) has been working with elected officials, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and county officials to mitigate and reduce crashes on the corridor.

To date, with the help and coordination of other agencies, the MDOT SHA has made several major safety improvements, including the \$125 million interchange project at MD 210 and Kirby Hill Road. This interchange is the first of a series of interchange projects planned for the corridor. It is important to note that these projects are costly and take years to plan, design, and build.

Safety Improvements

Since January 2018, the MDOT SHA has been performing various signage enhancements along MD 210. These measures include installing additional speed limit signs: "Move Over Slow Down – For Emergency Vehicles on Shoulder," and "State Law – No Texting, No Hand-Held Cell Phone." The MDOT SHA has performed maintenance of the lighting to ensure that it is in good working condition at each signalized intersection along MD 210 in Prince George's County. All the existing lights at the signalized intersections along MD 210 have been upgraded to LED lighting as a result of a lighting project that was completed in Spring 2019.

The MDOT SHA installed yellow placards over the existing "Speed Limit 45" signs and added "Signal Ahead" warning and supplemental "Wilson Bridge Drive" signs to slow traffic and bring attention to motorists as they are traveling through the MD 210 at Wilson Bridge Drive intersection. Additionally, a review of the existing signage was completed along MD 210 from the Charles County Line to I-95/I-495. By late 2018, rumble strips were installed along southbound MD 210 where the I-295 ramp ties into MD 210.

In late 2019, the MDOT SHA made modifications to narrow lanes and lowered the speed limit to 30 miles per hour along MD 210 from Livingston Road/Sachem Drive to the D.C. Line to calm traffic and create a more inviting environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. The bus stops closest to the D.C. Line were recently evaluated. It was recommended that the crossing and the bus stop at the current location be kept due to the degree of infrastructure currently in place with existing bus shelters. A work order was created to install "Stop Here for Pedestrians" signs along both directions of MD 210 and install missing down arrow signs for the existing Pedestrian Warning signs at the intersection. We anticipate this work to be completed in Summer 2021, schedule permitting.

Also, along MD 210 between I-95/I-495 and the D.C. Line, MD 210 at Salisbury Drive is being recommended for a modification from a Flag-In-The-Air to a Pedestrian Signal with Countdown Pedestrian Signals (CPS) and Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) for the visually impaired. MD 210 at Livingston Road/Sachem Drive and MD 210 at Audrey Lane are being recommended for

lead pedestrian intervals (LPI). This treatment provides additional time to exclusively start crossing along the marked crosswalk, which encourages motorists coming from the side streets to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, thus making it safer to cross the street. This is under review with the MDOT SHA and an update can be provided once the review is complete. In the meantime, the MDOT SHA will be adding additional crossing time for pedestrians to more safely cross MD 210 at Livingston Road, which should occur this Summer, schedule permitting.

The MDOT SHA is constructing safety enhancements along MD 210. These measures include installing advanced hazard identification beacons approaching several signalized intersections along both directions of MD 210. Additionally, the MDOT SHA is reconstructing traffic signals at the MD 228 (Berry Road), MD 373 (Livingston Road), Farmington Road, Swan Creek Road/Livingston Road, Fort Washington Road, Old Fort Road (North) intersections, and at Palmer Road. These improvements will provide signal heads that can support retroreflective yellow backplates that would enhance the signals' visibility, upgrade existing pedestrian crossings at MD 373, Fort Washington Road, Old Fort Road (North), and Palmer Road, and add a new pedestrian crossing at Swan Creek Road, all of which will include CPS/APS and accessible ramps. Additionally, advance street name signs and streetlights will be installed approaching all the reconstructed intersections. All these improvements are anticipated to be completed by late Summer 2021.

Two locations are being proposed for speed reduction markers. The first location is along northbound and southbound MD 210 downhill toward Farmington Road and the second location is along northbound and southbound MD 210 downhill towards Swan Creek Road. The MDOT SHA will also be removing the fourth lane along southbound MD 210 approaching Swan Creek Road and shortening the lanes beyond the intersection along both southbound and northbound MD 210 to acceleration lanes in order to reduce aggressive driving that has been observed at the intersection. Additionally, the existing right-turn lane along southbound MD 210 approaching Swan Creek Road will be shifted over to the current location of the fourth lane at the current right-turn lane and the location will be striped as a shoulder. The work will be performed in Summer 2021, schedule permitting.

Coordination with the County

For years, the MDOT SHA has been working with the county police, Department of Public Works, elected officials, and community leaders on different safety related campaigns from drunk driving and speeding enforcement, long-term corridor planning, and pedestrian and bike safety.

The MDOT SHA District 3 office, which maintains State Highways throughout Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, has been working with the community on spot safety improvements and educational campaigns to combat drunk driving and drag racing.

The MDOT SHA Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering (OPPE) is actively engaged with Prince George's County Department of Public Works. The parties have quarterly meetings to discuss the long-term plans for all of the county's roads and MD 210 is always a priority

during the meetings. The County agrees with the MDOT SHA about the long-term vision to build interchanges at each of the major intersections south of Kirby Hill Road and MD 210.

Speed Camera Program

The Maryland General Assembly authorized speed monitoring systems on the MD 210 corridor, allowing the County to place up to three speed cameras on the corridor. The speed cameras detect persons traveling 12 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit and ticket them for \$40.00 per violation. The tickets do not carry any other penalty or points on the license.

Recently, during a conversation with the police department, the police relayed a concern from the ticketing data that showed a large number of violations where vehicles were travelling 20 to 30 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. These violators are being penalized the same way as those that were only going 12 miles per hour over the speed limit.

Conclusion

The MDOT SHA will continue to work with all stakeholders to further enhance safety along the MD 210 corridor. The MDOT SHA safety efforts will be focusing on engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency services. The MDOT SHA looks forward to continuing to build relationships with the community and other stakeholders to improve safety metrics on the MD 210 corridor and the entire Maryland Highway System.