



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

January 13, 2014

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Executive Office Building (EOB)
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor Conference Room
Rockville, Maryland 20950

RE: MD355 Crossing (BRAC) Project
CIP Project No. 501209
Mandatory Referral No. MR2014024

Dear Mr. ~~Holmes~~ ^{Art}:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2014, the Planning Board approved the Mandatory Referral of the above project with the following comments:

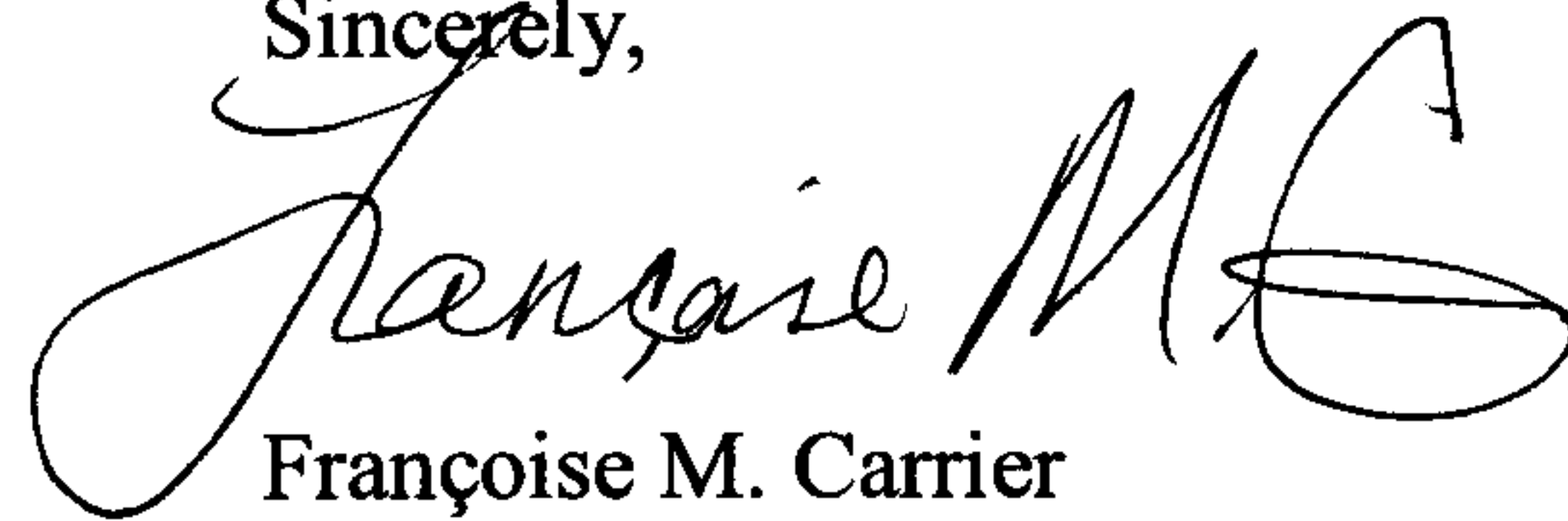
1. Expand the plaza area on the west side of MD355 to the north to eliminate the need for users of the crosswalk on the south leg of the intersection to make two right-angle turns to access the Metro station or enter the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
2. Increase the width of the bike path adjacent to the tunnel portal on the west side of MD355 to twelve feet if possible to provide a "shy distance" from the portal wall.
3. Expand the plaza area on the east side to the north to facilitate a smooth movement for users of the crosswalk on the south leg of the intersection headed toward NMMC.
4. Remove the existing short and narrow sidewalk segment that runs along South Wood Road to improve pedestrian movement in this area and to allow a better landscaped buffer between the plaza and the road.
5. Provide lighting of the tunnel, portals, elevators areas, and the MD355/South Drive/South Wood Road intersection that meets the standards of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).
6. Provide adequate directional signage to avoid confusion for first time visitors.

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Jr.
January 10, 2014
Page Two

7. Submit a new Forest Conservation Exemption application if there is any significant change to the limit of disturbance (LOD) shown in the approved exemption plan 42014012E.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please call Larry Cole at 301-495-4528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Françoise M. Carrier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "F" and "M".

Françoise M. Carrier
Chair

cc: Uzair Assadullah