

## Traffic on University Hills streets - Tom Eichman

### Comments for October 17, 2011, Hyattsville Council Meeting

My wife and I have lived in University Hills at the corner of Wells and Stanford for 31 years. Before that we lived in an apartment just beyond the lower end of Gumwood for five years and used primarily Gumwood Dr. or Stanford St. to walk and bicycle to and from the University.

During these 36 years we have become very familiar with how the layout of the area affects the traffic situation. Here are some of the things about area traffic we think need more consideration in planning our neighborhood's Street Project:

1. University Hills is not an urban area and cannot be easily urbanized. It's really a bedroom community with very few places outside the area within easy walking distance.
2. The area is a virtual cul-de-sac, a big one with more than 300 houses.
3. There is no motor vehicle through-traffic in University Hills. Anyone driving into or out of the neighborhood must both enter and exit at Adelphi Road. The only exception is when the police reroute Adelphi traffic through Wells and Stanford due to blockage on Adelphi. Wells and Stanford are the two main routes in and out. Gumwood is also used as a feeder to Wells and Stanford. Other streets have little traffic.
4. Traffic on Wells and Stanford is heaviest (but not too heavy) at go-to-work hours in the early morning and the late afternoon return-from-work hours. At other times there is little traffic, except on some weekends.
5. The speed analysis report for the area earlier this year shows that the highest speeds come in those early morning hours Monday through Friday as people rush off to work and the coming home hours are not so speedy.
6. Few people bicycle up or down Wells. Most bicyclists on Stanford are primarily UMD students who come through the park from somewhere else.

These are some of the observations we have made over the years. What is being planned for the streets in our neighborhood shows a lack of accurate information about the traffic situation in our neighborhood. We hope the plans are open to revision based on a more complete analysis of University Hills traffic.