



## SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

March 12, 2015

Mr. George Leventhal  
County Council President  
100 Maryland Ave, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

*Advice from the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board re:*  
**Restoring Funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Impact Areas (BPPIA)**

Dear Council President Leventhal:

We recently learned from the Department of Transportation that funding for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Impact Areas (BPPIA) has been rescinded. **We are writing to request that the County Council restore the funding**, so that our County can continue its efforts to provide a safe environment for all users traveling within the public realm.

Last year, the County Council took an important step to fund the planning of improvements within five designated BPPIAs, including the Silver Spring Central Business District. MCDOT has begun planning studies in these areas, and our Board's TREE (Transportation, Energy & Environment) Committee held a productive meeting last month with the community and stakeholders from MCDOT, MNCPPC, and Councilmember Reimer's office. The TREE Committee remains involved in the process, and we believe that this community-based approach towards improved pedestrian, bicycle, and general mobility public safety can and is being replicated elsewhere in the County.

Our Board recently issued a budget priorities letter to the County Executive for FY16. Based on community feedback throughout the year and at the Executive's budget forum, we highlighted the importance of transportation funding for the "...safe and efficient movement of residents, guests, and business employees."

Continuing to fund the BPPIA program is a key element in working towards this goal.

We ask that you please restore the funding needed to carry through with the BPPIA improvements. These BPPIAs represent critical locations requiring safety improvements that help vulnerable road users, and are an inexpensive opportunity for the county to demonstrate forward-looking investment in its citizens. We believe the BPPIA initiative should be considered an essential part of the County's efforts to improve the quality of life in our growing urban centers, and note the economic benefits that doing so will bring to County residents.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bernice Mireku-North  
Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

cc:  
County Council Members  
SSCAB Members

