

## **RE: 2024 Montgomery County CIP Testimony**

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### Parks CIP Items

- North Branch Trail
- Trails Natural Surface and Resource based Recreation
- Legacy Open Space
- Vision Zero

### Transportation CIP items

- Bowie Mill Bikeway
- Sandy Spring Bikeway
- Traffic Signal Modernization

Trails and trail connectivity have been growing and thriving. Their popularity has never been greater.

While there has been great growth in the down county and Germantown areas, up county and areas such as Olney have fallen behind. Thankfully there are some upcoming CIP projects to help close these gaps.

The North Branch Trail and Bowie Mill Bikeway will connect Olney to Rock Creek regional Park, thereby connecting to Rockville, Gaithersburg, Aspen Hill and beyond.

The Sandy Spring Bikeway will not only provide recreation and commuting opportunities but vital safe routes to schools.

The Trails Natural Surface and Resource based Recreation program along with groups such as MORE provide a well maintained natural surface trail for all to enjoy and explore.

Legacy Open Space is vital for obtaining more land for preservation and the growth of our network of trails.

Traffic Signal Moderation is something we are lagging behind on. I keep finding lights that don't change for bicycles. This leaves the cyclist the option of waiting until a car triggers the light or running the light.

All of this rolls nicely into the support of Vision Zero. While this has been a priority in the down county area, up county has been left behind.

This is why it is important not to kick the can down the road on these projects. The goals of Vision Zero will only be achieved when we have safe roads and trails for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the County.