I commend the Montgomery County Council for introducing Bill 28-25 Motor Vehicles and Traffic - Parking in Bikeways – Prohibited and strongly encourage passage of this important legislation. Special thanks to Councilmembers Glass and Fani-Gonzalez for shepherding this bill to the Council.

Bike lanes are important safety measures; not just for cyclists, but research shows that motor vehicle crashes are reduced when bike lanes are present. However, when motor vehicles park or stand in bike lanes, cyclists are forced into the stream of traffic, creating a dangerous situation. Parking or standing in an active bike lane differs from instances when bicyclists ride on roads where there are no bike lanes (e.g., when a "sharrow" is displayed or when signs indicate "Bicycles may use full lane."). In those instances, an entire lane is unlikely to be blocked by a legally or illegally parked/standing vehicle. A parked or standing vehicle in a bike lane forces a cyclist into an active traffic lane, creating a dangerous situation for both the cyclist and existing motor vehicle traffic.

I have used bike lanes in the county to get to medical appointments, run errands, and just for enjoyment and physical health. Bike lanes make it easier, faster, and more convenient to use my bike for transportation. Now that I am retired, I bike even more often. This keeps one more car off the road, which improves traffic flow and helps Maryland reach its lofty climate goals. My wife, who is still working, varies between biking to work and taking public transportation. We feel like we are doing our part to make Montgomery County and Maryland an even better/healthier place to live and work. Passing the proposed bike lane legislation will support people like us, lead to expanded use of bike lanes, and keep cyclists and motor vehicle operators safe. This will move us all closer to the goals of Vision Zero. The proposed bill seems to be a "no-brainer" and I urge you to pass this important legislation. Thank you.

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