



Capital Crescent Trail Passageway
at Wisconsin Avenue

Introduction

Montgomery County, Maryland is seeking \$25 million in discretionary grant funding from the US Department of Transportation through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants program to construct the \$55.56 million Corridor Connector Project. The Project will create a grade separated crossing of Wisconsin Avenue, provide a secure bike parking facility near transit, and develop a new park for children of all ages. Importantly, the Project will complete the last portion of the 11-mile shared use off-road Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) from Georgetown in Washington D.C. to Silver Spring, a critical east-west link in the region's trail network. This Project will provide an accessible, grade-separated crossing of Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355) in Bethesda, directly connecting from a public park to a major transit hub, allowing people to move safely, quickly, and unimpeded by one of the busiest arterial roadways in Montgomery County.

Safety

The Project provides a grade separated crossing of Wisconsin Avenue for the 60,000 average monthly pedestrians and bicyclists who use the CCT today; a figure that is anticipated to increase significantly with the opening of the Purple Line. The Community Connector project will greatly improve travel safety and advance the County's Vision Zero goals by allowing thousands of daily pedestrians and bicyclists to avoid three street crossings including the heavily traveled Wisconsin Avenue.

Climate

The Project advances the goals of the County's Climate Action Plan to reduce the use of personal automobiles and increase use of transit and active transportation such as biking and walking to reduce green house gas emissions.

Connectivity

The Project will provide a connection to the Purple Line and WMATA Red Line Bethesda Stations and short and long term parking for approximately 460 bikes. It will also directly connect the portion of the CCT already constructed to Georgetown and the portion currently being constructed to Silver Spring, which includes connections to Rock Creek Park and Metropolitan Branch Trails.

Economic Development

The Project provides a direct connection to the Bethesda economic center and transit lines connecting County residents to jobs throughout the Capital region. It is a vital link in our region's trail network to provide safe, convenient, and carbon-free pedestrian and bicycle options that connect neighborhoods to the incredible amenities this region offers.

Partnerships

Montgomery County will serve as the grant recipient. The Project is supported by numerous other stakeholders including the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration (WMATA), the Town of Chevy Chase, the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. As part of the Project, MNCPPC's Elm Street Urban Park will be redeveloped into an exciting, fully accessible, multi-age playground with separate areas for younger and older children, an adult outdoor fitness area, a variety of seating areas, accessible walkways, bike racks, and landscape planting.

Montgomery County has already made a significant investment in supplying the funding for the construction of the Capital Crescent Trail along the Purple Line and is committed to closing the gap to cement the CCT as a world-class trail facility for the region.