



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

September 19, 2018

Councilmember Roger Berliner
Montgomery County Council
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Tuckerman Lane Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project Phase I Facility Planning

Dear Councilmember Berliner:

On September 6, 2018, the Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed the Tuckerman Lane Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project. In advance of the County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee's hearing on the project on October 11, 2018, the Planning Board offers these comments:

1. Support Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative.
2. Prioritize Segment 1 (Falls Road to Snakeden Branch) for funding.
3. Strive to provide a sidepath on one side of the road and a sidewalk on the opposite side of the road for the entire length of the project.

Since it may not be feasible to provide a sidepath on one side of the road and a sidewalk on the opposite side of the road for the entire length of the project, at a minimum the Planning Board recommends the following:

1. Where gaps in the walking and bicycling infrastructure require pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the street, ensure that crossings are safe.
2. Add a sidepath between the entrance to Cabin John Regional Park and Whisperwood Lane so a sidepath is provided for the full length of the project.
3. Reduce the number of crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians using the sidepath by considering one of the following changes to the alignment:
 - a. Locate the sidepath on the south side of Tuckerman Lane between Angus Place and Old Georgetown Road, thereby limiting the crossings of Tuckerman Lane from two to one.
 - b. Locate the sidepath on the north side of Tuckerman Lane for the entire length of the project with a protected crossing (such as a traffic signal) at the entrance to Cabin John Regional Park, thereby eliminating all crossings of Tuckerman Lane. Upgrade the existing shared use path between Luxmanor Road and Old Georgetown Road to include a buffer from traffic.

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4. Widen the sidepath to 10 feet where feasible between Angus Place and the entrance to Cabin John Regional Park.
5. Consider providing a separate sidewalk beneath I-270 if the sidepath is not extended between the entrance to Cabin John Regional Park and Whisperwood Lane.
6. Consider the following items during Phase II of this Facility Planning Study:
 - c. Widen the conventional bike lanes to conform with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's design standards:
 - i. 6 feet when adjacent to on-street parking (Segment 1).
 - ii. 5.5 feet when adjacent to a curb (Segment 3).
 - d. Provide a protected crossing (such as a traffic signal) in front of Herbert Hoover Middle School (potentially at Duryea Drive).
 - e. Add crosswalks at all bus stops on Tuckerman Lane.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please contact David Anspacher at 301-495-2191.

Sincerely,



Casey Anderson
Chair

cc: Al Roshdieh, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Chris Conklin, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
John "JT" Thomas, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Angel Cheng, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Glenn Orlin, Montgomery County Council Office