

May 23, 2017

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: DRAFT Concept Plan for Glenmont to Silver Spring Bikeway

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board is sending its comments about the draft Glenmont to Silver Spring Bikeway in expectation they will be of assistance to your office and to M-NCPPC. We value the effort being made by the Montgomery County Planning Department to devise a neighborhood greenway, a component of the bicycle master plan, connecting Glenmont and Silver Spring through Wheaton. We understand that this draft serves as a short-term concept, with a “long-term vision for connecting all major activity centers by low-stress bikeways.”

There is clearly a need for a continuous bikeway connecting Glenmont to Silver Spring. Some residents are presently using the bicycles to commute between Metro stations and, with the welcome expansion of Capital Bikeshare into Wheaton, additional commuters may opt to bike their commute. Moreover, recreational cyclists who use Sligo Creek Trail would benefit from a more direct bikeway.

We are cognizant of the many challenges posed by the construction of a proper bikeway, particularly in our region, including lack of designated bike lanes, high speed traffic along Georgia Avenue, no direct parallel route to Georgia Avenue, and only a single pedestrian bridge crossing the Interstate 495 exit ramps.

The Bikeway Advisory Committee, which considered four different bikeway routes, listed the alterations needed to be made to current traffic patterns. While we do support the creation of a bikeway, we have three main concerns about the present concept. First, we caution against multiple crossings over Georgia Avenue without substantially slowing down the traffic and increasing bike awareness signage along the state highway. Second, while the Bikeway Advisory Committee recommended a bikeway east of Amherst Avenue, which makes sense given the installation of several Capital Bikeshare stations on the east side, there should be an alternative bikeway to the west of Georgia Avenue to accommodate cyclists who are commuting to the Wheaton Central Business District, including those who will be working at the M-NCPPC Headquarters Building, shortly under construction in Wheaton. Third, we caution the Planning Board against recommending a dedicated bike lane along Georgia Avenue which would eliminate an auto travel lane and thereby increase

traffic congestion.

We appreciate the work of the Advisory Committee to connect our neighborhoods and look forward to providing more input as the process advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Francisco Romero', with a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

Francisco Romero
MCCAB Chair

CC: Montgomery County Council
Casey Anderson, Chair, Planning Board M-NCPPC