



WHEATON URBAN DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Luisa Montero-Diaz
Director

December 26, 2018

Hon. Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Hon. Nancy Navarro
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich and Council President Navarro:

As we are sure you are aware, there has been a recent increase in pedestrian fatalities in the Wheaton area and the Wheaton Urban District itself which has highlighted one of our Urban District's fundamental problems: **the lack of safe, connected, pedestrian and bike ways in and around our urban district.**

Wheaton will never fully emerge as a self-sufficient Urban District until this infrastructure is in place. WUDAC is glad to see that there is political traction behind mobilizing the State Highway Administration particularly because there are three state highways that transect the Urban District.

Specifically, we are responding to the request by SHA and the Council to identify the priority areas of concern within our District that are contributing to unacceptable dangers to our pedestrians and residents. In the past few months WUDAC has engaged with several neighborhood groups, community members and advocates and has created the attached map highlighting our biggest connectivity concerns.

Incidentally many of our labeled "Hot Spots" mentioned on the map are included in the County's *2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas (BiPPA) Report*. Furthermore, many are labeled "High" priority and "Short Term" implementation. Please note that while the sites are numbered in rough order of priority, all are critical to creating a safer community.

The report even goes on to mention: *"Wheaton CBD is the ideal BiPPA where investment in bicycle and pedestrian improvements has great potential to transform a community characterized by auto-centric infrastructure, heavy commercial activity, and a busy transit hub at its core."*

Therefore, WUDAC would like to request that the recommendations of the 2015 BiPPA Report, particularly those related to the "Hot Spots" map (attached) be funded and scheduled for implementation. We also request the development of a focused Wheaton Urban District BiPPA funding vehicle to ensure quicker and more direct action.

We invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings to discuss your thoughts on this matter and we thank you for your continued interest in this issue.

Best Regards,

William Jelen, WUDAC Chair

WHEATON

