



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John D. Porcari
Secretary

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Deputy Secretary

January 14, 2009

Ronnie Gathers, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
Maryland-National Capital Park and
Planning Commission
6600 Kenilworth Avenue
Riverdale MD 20737

Dear Mr. Gathers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the planned north extension of the Henson Creek Trail to Branch Avenue. Your continued efforts to provide alternative transportation choices in Prince George's County are appreciated.

Both the Maryland Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration (SHA) regret that, despite the collaborative efforts of all involved to find a viable Beltway crossing, including consideration of a pedestrian bridge, a tunnel beneath I-495 or the Henson Creek culvert, the challenges of safely extending the Henson Creek Trail beyond I-495 prohibit the project from moving forward at this time. We look forward to working with you on future trail projects in Prince George's County. If the culverts at Henson Creek are replaced by a bridge, we could certainly reinstate discussions regarding a trail crossing during the project planning process.

Thank you again for your letter. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Douglas H. Simmons, Deputy Administrator for Planning, Engineering, Real Estate and Environment, SHA, at 410-545-0411, toll-free 866-697-0559, or via email at dsimmons@sha.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

John D. Porcari
Secretary

Prince George's County Parks and Recreation
Office of the Director

Rec'd 1/21/09 To: L. Quarrick
Action AA-FYI

CC: Rick Hopkins

cc: Mr. Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator, SHA
Mr. Douglas H. Simmons, Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Planning,
Engineering, Real Estate and Environment, SHA