

# *Glenn Dale Citizens' Association, Inc.*

P. O. Box 235  
Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769  
March 1, 2011

The Honorable Rushern L. Baker III  
Prince George's County Executive  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-3050

Dear Mr. Baker:

I write on behalf of the Glenn Dale Citizens Association, Inc. (GDCA), a civic association serving the residents of greater Glenn Dale in Prince George's County (generally encompassing the 20769 zip code and surrounding environs). As a community along the Amtrak Northeast Corridor railroad line only a few miles outside of the Capital Beltway, we are encouraged by your plans for economic revitalization, including transit-oriented development at New Carrollton. Those efforts will only succeed, however, if they create truly walkable communities with safe streets that connect them to other adjacent communities.

Most communities in Prince George's County do not have safe walkable routes to schools, shopping, or other nearby amenities. Although streets within subdivisions are safe for walking and biking, the roads outside of subdivisions generally lack sidewalks and lanes for safe bicycling. Part of the problem is the legacy of state highway improvements that failed to consider bicycles and pedestrians. Another part of the problem, however, rests with the Prince George's County Government. One of our officers, for example, recently asked the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) to place signs and pavement markings on Church Road so that he would have a safer bike route to a nearby school to which he ferries his daughter in a bike trailer. The staff of M-NCPPC concurred with this request because Church Road is an official bike route in the approved Master Plan. However, DPW&T declined on the grounds that adding these safety features would imply that DPW&T thinks that people should ride on that road. Our county has precious few bike lanes, and some of the few new bike lanes it does have follow obsolete design guidance.

At the GDCA's January 2011 regular meeting, the association resolved to convey to you that the time is now for your administration to set DPW&T on a course to achieve complete streets that accommodate the needs of drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. The county needs and deserves a plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; one with specific goals and specific dates, such as the miles of bike facilities or percentage of county population with a safe walking or bike route to shopping by 2015. Crafting such a plan will almost certainly require hiring or assigning at least one full-time county employee to design the plan and see it through. But perhaps most importantly, DPW&T needs to hear, from the leaders of this county, that the days when some county roads are treated as "for motor vehicles only" are over.

Sincerely,



Henry N. Wixon  
President

cc: Hon. Ingrid Turner, President, County Council  
Hon. Eric Olson, Vice President, County Council