



Bicycle & Trail Advisory Group

Prince George's County ⬡ Founded January 1998

March 29, 2011

The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III
Prince George's County Executive
Suite 5032, County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
20772-3050

Re: Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues in Prince
George's County

Dear Mr. Baker:

Congratulations on your recent election as County Executive in Prince George's County. The Prince George's County Bicycle and Trails Advisory Group, or BTAG, has worked with and advised county agencies since the group was founded in 1998 by your predecessor, former County Executive Wayne Curry. BTAG is chaired by members of the M-NCPPC Planning Department and facilitates interaction and cooperation between state and county agencies and local trail groups, bicycle clubs, equestrian organizations and other county residents or groups interested in improving bicycle and pedestrian access and expanding the trails network in Prince George's County. Most recently, BTAG provided input into the trail and bikeway priorities in Prince George's County for the current revision to the Joint Signature Letter on State Transportation Priorities.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety was a topic of the October 2010 BTAG Quarterly Meeting. Pedestrian accessibility and safety is especially crucial around area schools and near transit, where it is likely that some school children or residents will choose to make some trips by walking or bicycling. Pedestrian safety and walkable communities are mentioned by county residents as top community concerns and priorities in recent planning workshops and charrettes. BTAG hopes to continue to work with county agencies and the Office of the County Executive to implement the bicycle and pedestrian recommendations of the 2009 *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* to improve non-motorized access and pedestrian safety.

More specifically, at its October 2010 meeting, BTAG identified the following issues which it hopes to work with the county to implement in coming years:

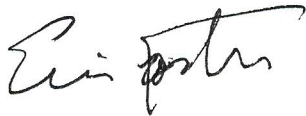
- The creation of a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator position at the Department of Public Works and Transportation. This position will allow for the evaluation and incorporation of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations on new CIP projects and as routine maintenance occurs. This position would be comparable to existing positions at the District Department of Transportation and in Montgomery County. BTAG commends DPW&T for their continued work with M-

NCPPC and BTAG, the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian priorities on the Joint Signature Letter, the completion of a successful and comprehensive Safe-Routes-to-School application, and operating efficiently despite severe financial constraints. However, the creation of this position will help to ensure that the needs of all roadway users are accommodated through all phases of facility design, construction, and maintenance.

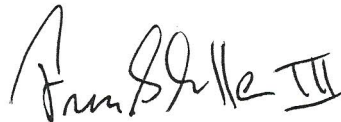
- The adoption of a Complete Streets Policy. The 2009 *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* included a Complete Streets Section that highlighted the need for accommodating all modes of transportation in new road construction or improvements. Incorporating the necessary accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists into roadway design will not only improve safety, but also ensure that opportunities are provided to make some trips by modes other than automobile. Although not feasible for all trips, non-motorized trips can be most effectively utilized around transit stations, within existing established communities, and around schools. BTAG supports the adoption of the complete streets policy by the county that is based on the *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* and ensures that these improvements are considered and incorporated into road improvements and new road construction as funding allows.
- The provision of designated bike lanes along county roads where right-of-way permits as standard resurfacing or restriping occur. This step would allow for the implementation of the *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* through routine maintenance.
- The analysis of bicycle and pedestrian facility needs created by new development through the transportation adequate public facilities test. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be evaluated for these needs just as automobile facilities currently are.
- The development of a policy on shared-lane markings and "Bikes May Take Full Lane" signs (R4-11). The 2009 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) includes guidance on additional treatments for accommodating bicycles safely along public roads. These newly endorsed techniques included shared lane markings and the R4-11 signs. BTAG recommends that the county develop a policy for utilizing these treatments in appropriate locations.

In the summer of 1999, BTAG met with County Executive Curry to discuss several issues important to the bicycle and pedestrian community, as well as to outline ways that BTAG can assist the county in planning for and implementing appropriate improvements. BTAG looks forward to continuing this dialogue with your administration and working towards improved bicycle and pedestrian access and safety in Prince George's County. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or would like to meet with members of BTAG, please contact Fred Shaffer of the M-NCPPC Planning Department at (301) 952-3661 or fred.shaffer@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,



Eric Foster
M-NCPPC Planning Supervisor
Co-Chair, BTAG



Fred Shaffer
M-NCPPC Trails Coordinator
Co-Chair, BTAG

cc: Eileen Nivera, DPR
Vic Weissberg, DPW&T
BTAG mailing list