



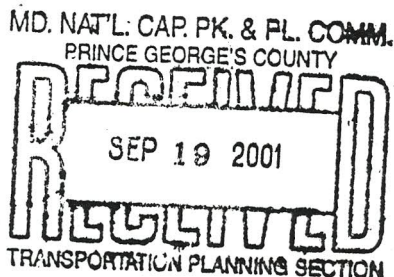
THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Wayne K. Curry
County Executive

September 14, 2001

The Honorable Janet S. Owens
Anne Arundel County Executive
44 Calvert Street
P. O. Box 2700
Annapolis, Maryland 21404



Dear Ms. Owens: *Janet*

As you are aware, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) completed a six-mile portion of the Washington-Baltimore and Annapolis Trail in Prince George's County and opened it to the public last fall after many years of planning and public input. The WB&A Trail has always been intended to serve as a vital link in several national trails, including the East Coast Greenway Trail and the American Discovery Trail. Presently, the completed portion of the trail provides a wonderful outdoor opportunity for hikers, cyclists and equestrians. Through construction of these planned linkages, this experience could be enjoyed by others.

Toward this end, letters of intent were signed last year by Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County to each provide one-fourth of the cost of the WB&A crossing of the Patuxent River. However, it is my understanding that M-NCPPC and Anne Arundel County have been unable to pursue the joint application for \$5 million in federal TEA-21 funding due to opposition from a property owner in Anne Arundel County.

Discussions between M-NCPPC and Anne Arundel County staff have indicated that the property owner's concerns include reversion rights to the WB&A right-of-way purchased by Anne Arundel County, proximity to a backdrop for a shooting range on his property and potential interference with the operation of a nature center. The claim to the reversion rights has not been substantiated, and the trail is proposed to be located along the former trackbed of the WB&A Railway which forms the eastern boundary of this property, not through the property itself.

We have dealt with similar issues on properties abutting trails projects in Prince George's County, and they have not prevented us from reaching agreements with property owners to successfully address these types of concerns and ultimately proceed with construction. The same positive approach that resulted in the opening of the WB&A Trail last fall can be applied here, and these issues should not prevent the construction of a trail segment that will link the two Counties, as well as the Washington and Baltimore Metropolitan Areas and other National Millennium Trails.

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