

Bicycling Advocates of Howard County Inc

10500 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Suite 700
Columbia, MD 21044

March 15, 2011

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Attn: Kevin Kamenetz, Chairman
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Annual Work Program and Budget - FY 2012 UPWP
Howard County Bicycle Plan

Dear Mr. Kamenetz:

I write to you on behalf of Bicycling Advocates of Howard County Inc. (BAHC) to support the application made by the Howard County Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) for funding to develop policies which will govern the development of a Bicycle Plan and network in Howard County.

BAHC is a coalition of Howard County bicycle clubs and organizations which represents over 1,000 member bicyclists. We focus our energies on the following:

- Community Organizing
- Bicycle Transportation Advocacy
- Bicycle Safety Advocacy
- Bicycling Safety Education
- Legislative Education.

We have convened community forums with State and local government to discuss effective strategies for incorporating bicycling as part of the overall transportation system. We work closely with Howard County's Departments of Planning and Zoning and Public Works to improve bicycling conditions and plan for greater bicycle access. We have been advocates for the integration and use of non-motorized mobility (e.g., bicycling and walking), as a part of an effective transportation system in the redevelopment of Downtown Columbia and have testified before the Howard County Council on the need for a County-wide Bicycle/Pedestrian Accessibility Master Plan. We strongly support the DPW/DPC application for funding to develop a Bicycle Plan and network.

The need for County-wide, not merely local, planning brings us to support the DPW/DPC application for funding to develop a Bicycle Plan and network. We have testified before the Howard County Council on the need for a County-wide Bicycle/Pedestrian Accessibility Master Plan to address all parts of Howard County and

BAHC is a §501(c)(4) tax exempt organization

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Page 2
March 15, 2011

to require that all development, both in Downtown and elsewhere address bicycling and pedestrian transportation facilities. Approving the DPW/DPC application for funding to develop a Bicycle Plan and network will help accomplish that goal.

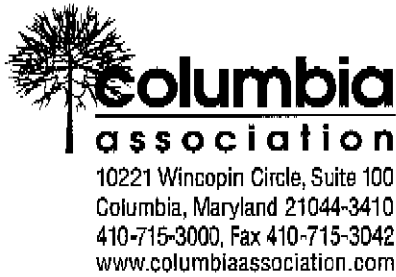
We thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Christopher C. Tsien
CFO/Chief Counsel

cc:
Jane Dembner



March 18, 2011

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230
Attention: Kevin Kamenetz, Chairman

RE: FY 2012 UPWP – Support of Funding for Howard County Bicycle Plan

Dear Mr. Kamenetz and Members of the Board:

I am writing to strongly support Howard County's request for funding for a Bicycle Plan as part of the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning (UPWP). I urge the BRTB to approve funding for this vital project.

Howard County is well-positioned to develop a Bicycle Plan and has been laying the foundation for this planning effort for some time. Some more recent related efforts include:

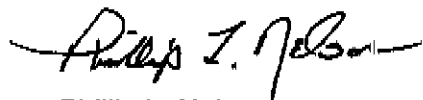
- The County has recently made changes to its zoning regulations and Design Manual to require more bicycle and pedestrian improvements in Downtown Columbia including instituting bicycle and pedestrian level of service standards.
- The County is working on guidelines for bicycle accessibility and needs assistance to complete this work and place it within a policy context.
- The County is just beginning its substantial update to the General Plan. The analysis done for the Bicycle Plan and the resulting policies and proposed network will also serve to inform the overall General Plan.
- The County is working collaboratively with community partners including Columbia Association to increase connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists in a number of ways including harnessing the existing off-road pathway system that exists in Columbia today.

What the County lacks is an overall master plan that sets the frame for investments and decision-making ***so that safe and adequate connectivity for cyclists is not only what we hope for but something that becomes reality in the not-too-distant future.*** With the cost of fuel rising, and the impacts of climate change increasing, now is the ideal time to plan for our future -- a future with

increased mobility choices that reduce environmental impacts and promote healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages.

Thank you very much for your funding support for this important Bicycle Plan project.

Sincerely,



Phillip L. Nelson
President

- cc: Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive
- Marsha McLaughlin, Howard County, Director of Planning
- Benjamin Pickar, Howard County, Department of Planning and Zoning, Transportation Planning Division
- Jane Dembner, Columbia Association, Director of Planning