May 15, 2023

Mr. Sean Campion  
Chief, MDOT SHA  
Innovative Contracting Division  
707 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
scampion@mdot.maryland.gov

RE: SHA Greenbelt East Trail Feasibility Formal Request

Dear Mr. Campion:

We are writing on behalf of Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail, Inc. to ask MDOT to undertake a feasibility study for an on-road protected two-way shared-use trail between the Glenn Dale Splash Park (MNCPPC) and Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) in Prince George’s County. For shorthand, we are referring to the proposed trail as the Greenbelt East Trail. The trail would be a key future link of the East Coast Greenway.

As described, the purpose of this project is to connect and expand multimodal opportunities between the abandoned Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis Railroad (WB&A Trail), which will soon connect central Prince George’s County with Anne Arundel County and onward toward Baltimore and Annapolis, with the Anacostia River Trail System (ARTS), which connects northern Prince George’s County with the District of Columbia and its trail systems onward to Northern Virginia and Montgomery County. In addition to the regional connectivity, the Greenbelt East Trail would improve safety and access for vulnerable road users between ERHS, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, DuVal High School, and several residential areas, churches, and businesses.

Additionally, we also request that the study consider driveway conflicts, alternative design approaches that would enable walkers, bike riders, and other trail uses to safely coexist with heavy vehicles and the ability for pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross major throughfares such as Good Luck Road and Lanham Severn Road (MD-54).

We believe this project would be eligible for SHA’s Bicycle Retrofit (Fund 88) as an on-road project between Mandan Road and the Glenn Dale Splash Park and, possibly, Pedestrian Access (Fund 79) for the enhanced sidewalk section between Mandan Road and ERHS. The project would also seem to meet the requirement for federal Transportation Alternatives Program and Safe Routes to School Funding, as well as the Safe Streets for Roads for All funding.
If SHA determines that this project can be implemented and qualifies for these funding sources, then Prince George’s County will evaluate whether Capital improvement or GO Bond money can be allocated to fund public involvement activities, and right of way acquisition. This is certainly a worthwhile initiative, and we look forward to hearing more as you proceed.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Michael Johnson, Director of Public Works, and Transportation at MDJohnson1@co.pg.md.us or at 301-883-5601.

Sincerely,

Floyd E. Holt
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer