



Bike Maryland
101 West Ridgely Road, 4A
Lutherville, MD 21093

June 2, 2014

RE: Support for Implementing "Complete Streets" on Camp Meade Road

Bike Maryland is a non-profit 501(c)3 representing the interests of bicyclists throughout the state of Maryland. A local advocate group that we work with, the Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County recently brought the Camp Meade Road (Rt. 170) project to our attention. This letter expresses our support for bicycle infrastructure along Camp Meade Road/MD-170.

The Anne Arundel County Council has already made a commitment to Complete Streets in the county. As you may know, Complete Streets policies take into account multiple transportation modes and all users when designing and updating roads.

Active transportation, like bicycling, reduces obesity and other negative health outcomes like heart disease, Type II diabetes, and strokes. Bicycling is accessible to residents of all ages and abilities, and by providing designated infrastructure SHA is making room for interested cyclists who are too nervous to ride in with traffic. If you build it they will come.

Furthermore, this bike lane provides an important connection for the East Coast Greenway. The East Coast Greenway cuts through Maryland, relying on the BWI loop as it continues south towards DC. MD-170 is the natural path for these tourists to take. Unlike day visitors or locals, bicycle tourists are heavily reliant on local businesses for food and shelter. A recent study from the Great Allegheny Passage found that while day users spend an average of thirteen dollars a day, overnight users spend an average of ninety-eight dollars in the host community. Connecting the East Coast Greenway from Baltimore through Linthicum makes hard, economic sense.

Anne Arundel must not let itself be left behind by the counties that it competes with for residents. Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties have all made significant strides in improving their bike-ability in recent years.

Bicycling is on the rise throughout the country and throughout Maryland. Bike Maryland thanks SHA for its commitment to Complete Streets and for initiating the Camp Meade Road project. We support this project and look forward to more that make Anne Arundel a more bike-able county.

Sincerely,
Emily Ranson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily M. Ranson".

Advocacy Coordinator