



Secretary Pete Rahn
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Dr
Hanover, MD 21076

May 20, 2015

Dear Secretary Rahn,

On the behalf of bicyclists across the state of Maryland, our 35 bicycle clubs and advocacy organizations, we strongly encourage you to appoint a new SHA administrator that will make accommodating bicycles on our state roads a top priority.

Maryland is a dense state where many people live in close proximity to work, shopping, and recreation to make active transportation a viable option. However, as we have recently see our ranking among our peers decline (<http://bikeleague.org/content/ranking>), we know that Maryland must do more to include bicycles. As our state attracts new investment and growth, we need to encourage people to complete short trips by walking or biking. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements provide safe conditions to minimize congestion, reduce impervious surfaces and increase property values. Enabling Marylanders to choose walking and biking relies on the safety perception of our roads.

During Administrator Peters' tenure at State Highway, policies encouraging bicycle infrastructure along state roads flourished. By instituting a stringent waiver process mandating all projects include bicycle accommodations, SHA facilitated efficient and low-cost bike improvements across the state. As this practice continues, a safe bike network will continue to grow across the state attracting new residents and encourage economic development. This state policy is unique in providing bicycle facilities for all parts of the state - where transportation cycling is limited, counties benefit from state highways suitable for tourists.

While Maryland has a great road network, there is still much that we can do to encourage all forms of transportation including biking and walking. We urge you to appoint a State Highway Administrator who will continue to include the needs of cyclists and pedestrians when designing and implementing improvements to our state roads.

Sincerely,

Nate Evans
Executive Director
Bike Maryland