

I am honored to be nominated for appointment to the Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board.

I grew up in Howard County and have always considered it my home. As a child, I rode far and wide on my single-speed bicycle, and later biked to lifeguard jobs in Columbia.

I spent 34 years in Minneapolis, MN. I worked for Honeywell in their corporate R&D group, on topics such as improving safety through human factors in complex systems. I was a year-round bicycle commuter and Complete Streets advocate, and a volunteer for Free Bikes 4 Kidz, a nonprofit that refurbishes bicycles for kids in need.

We moved back here two years ago in anticipation of retirement. I've started a Free Bikes 4 Kidz affiliate here; our first bike collection day is October 5.

Much has changed since I was a child biking all over Howard County—we don't see many kids biking on county roads these days. And more change is coming: Not merely population growth, but increased commuting to Howard County's growing employment centers from elsewhere. Multimodal transportation must be a focus if we are to avoid much worse automobile congestion than we already experience.

The good news is that the opportunity is there: The Census bureau says that about 45% of us live within walking or bicycling distance from work, but only about 1% of us do that. 55% of us are long-haul commuters, but less than 4% of us use public transportation. More than 80% drive alone to work.

By comparison, in Minneapolis, on a percentage basis, there are 25% fewer automobile commuters (61% vs. 81%), three times the mass transit users (12.7% vs. 3.8%), three times as many pedestrian commuters (7% vs 1%), and *forty times* as many bicycle commuters (4.1% vs 0.1%), despite the weather.

Howard County has tremendous opportunities to reduce congestion. We can begin by focusing on the 45% of commuters who live within biking or walking distance: A rapid implementation of a Complete Streets policy and a barrier-free infrastructure will enable biking and walking and offer a legitimate, and safe, alternative to driving, with significant benefits for health and the environment as well.

We can also work towards providing better mass-transit options to support long-haul commuters who will increasingly be coming to Howard County to work, rather than leaving it for work elsewhere.

Of course, the devil is in the details, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to be able to help with those.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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