

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer White <jwhite@thehorizonfoundation.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 12:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: alex obriecht; nikolas.obriecht@gmail.com; pcavalieri@racepacebicycles.com
Subject: Testimony Submission - CR120-2019
Attachments: Race Pace Bicycles Letter.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Afternoon,

We are delighted to submit this testimony on behalf of Race Pace Bicycles in support of CR 120-2019.

Thank you,

Jennifer Arice White, MSPH

Senior Community Engagement Officer, Horizon Foundation

Direct: 443-766-1223 | Mobile: 248-345-3030

jwhite@thehorizonfoundation.org

www.thehorizonfoundation.org

10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044



Race Pace Bicycles
3258 Bethany Lane
Ellicott City MD
21042
410-461-7878

September 16, 2019

Howard County Council,

Race Pace Bicycles has served the Greater Baltimore Area for 42 years and in Howard County since 1983. Race Pace Bicycles employees more than 100 employees with approximately 35 in our Howard County locations. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process and making complete streets a priority for Howard County. We applaud the work you have already done in this regard – the County's recent historic investment of \$2.2 million for bike infrastructure is truly a step in the right direction, as is this complete streets resolution.

For the past 15 days I have been walking in England, following a continuous pedestrian path connecting many towns in the English countryside. Hundreds of miles long, this network is an amazing system put in place over the last 30 years. While I certainly had no involvement in its creation, I can imagine it took the cooperation of numerous individuals and town councils, as well as state and federal policy and monetary contributions. It is a remarkable example of recognizing that given choices, many choose not to be in a car.

Decades of policy decisions have resulted in transportation systems that do not allow for individuals to safely and efficiently travel without an automobile. Howard County is no exception to decisions such as these. There are many reasons why a Howard County resident might choose to walk, bicycle or use well designed public transportation to travel throughout the County. This should be encouraged. It is healthy, environmentally positive and economical for county residents.

A complete streets policy in Howard County should be implemented and put into practice quickly and comprehensively. While CR 120-2019 is a good launching point to get us closer to streets for all, Race Pace Bicycles recommends that the County Council work to improve upon the work already done by passing an ordinance that codifies the resolution with some key improvements that include added performance measures, better transparency, more equitable engagement and more efficient and accountable implementation.

While each of us recognizes that travel by automobile has its place, it should be one of several alternatives available for County residents. The implementation of a complete streets law in Howard County should prioritize walking, cycling and public transportation and not be of secondary consideration to the automobile. We have a fully active automobile infrastructure in place and it is time to move to a system that works for every resident – not just those traveling by car.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alex Obriecht
Owner, Race Pace Bicycles

September 16, 2019

Re: OPPOSITION OF the Complete Streets Policy (CR120-2019)

Dear Chairwoman Mercer Rigby and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) writes in opposition of Council Resolution 120, which would require Howard County to adopt a Complete Streets Policy and develop a Design Manual.

MBIA generally supports Complete Streets policies; they improve our neighborhoods and promote strong communities, public health, and environmental sustainability. In fact, homebuyers tell developers and builders that a walkable community is among the neighborhood amenities most appealing to them. However, this policy creates onerous requirements without a funding source, and could generate some valueless results.

For example, with some exceptions, most new residential subdivisions in Howard County are small infill projects surrounded by existing neighborhoods that were built without sidewalks or paths. Pedestrian safety concerns are often raised by residents in existing neighborhoods as an objection during pre-submission community meetings for these in-fill projects. The concerns are generally that sidewalks in new subdivisions cannot make a connection to the existing neighborhood.

The “missing tooth” nature of the County’s sidewalk/path system is more directly attributable to the Euclidean zoning which deliberately separated residential uses from other uses and the task of improving access by non-automotive means should carefully balance the County’s authority to require compliance from new development with the practicality and complexity of the need to fill in substantial gaps through existing infrastructure. Complete Streets implementation may be more practical and achievable in some areas than others, and any new policy should take the complexity of actually achieving the desired interconnections (through existing infrastructure) into consideration.

Without a fiscal impact study, sensible funding source, and a connection to the master plan, this bill is an unfunded mandate that will generate some negative results. We respectfully request the Council to vote no on Council Resolution 120-2019.

If you have any questions about these comments and would like to discuss MBIA’s position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at abailey@marylandbuilders.org or (202) 815-4445.

Best regards,



Angelica Bailey, Esq., Vice President of Government Affairs

Cc: Councilman David Yungmann County Executive Calvin Ball
Councilman Opel Jones Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff to the County Executive
Councilmember Elizabeth Walsh Valdis Lazdins, Director of Planning
Councilmember Deb Jung James Irvin, Director of Public Works

Sayers, Margery

From: J Rivlin <charmcity18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 5:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CR120-2019 Sidewalk Policy

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the members of the Howard County Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of CR120-2019, a resolution to adopt a comprehensive and modern sidewalk policy for Howard County.

As many other residents have offered remarks, and agencies within the county government have also offered evidence in support of this action, I would add this:

In my neighborhood of Font Hill, there is a contrast for the newer part of the neighborhood that has sidewalks and the older part (where I live) that does not.

In the newer part of the neighborhood, we see people walking, children riding bikes, and in general, more activity.

In my part of the neighborhood, the older part where there are no sidewalks, we get less pedestrian activity, but we do get speeding cars. I am concerned for my children's safety and discourage them from walking in the street - which is always good advice, but it means they are confined to our yard and are not able to safely get to their friends' homes even though they are relatively close.

Additionally, I see children from our neighborhood walking home from school (usually they are staying late for after school activities), and they must walk in the street.

Adding sidewalks to neighborhoods will improve safety and bring neighbors together.

Please approve this resolution.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Rivlin
9926 Windflower Dr
Font Hill.

Sayers, Margery

From: J Rivlin <charmcity18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 5:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CR120-2019 Sidewalk Policy

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the members of the Howard County Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of CR120-2019, a resolution to adopt a comprehensive and modern sidewalk policy for Howard County.

As many other residents have offered remarks, and agencies within the county government have also offered evidence in support of this action, I would add this:

In my neighborhood of Font Hill, there is a contrast for the newer part of the neighborhood that has sidewalks and the older part (where I live) that does not.

In the newer part of the neighborhood, we see people walking, children riding bikes, and in general, more activity.

In my part of the neighborhood, the older part where there are no sidewalks, we get less pedestrian activity, but we do get speeding cars. I am concerned for my children's safety and discourage them from walking in the street - which is always good advice, but it means they are confined to our yard and are not able to safely get to their friends' homes even though they are relatively close.

Additionally, I see children from our neighborhood walking home from school (usually they are staying late for after school activities), and they must walk in the street.

Adding sidewalks to neighborhoods will improve safety and bring neighbors together.

Please approve this resolution.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Rivlin
9926 Windflower Dr
Font Hill.

Sayers, Margery

From: Cathy Nagle <cathy.nagle1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 12:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR120-2019 We need a world-class complete streets law in Howard County

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I have lived off Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City for 17 years. In that time, the volume of car traffic along Old Annapolis Road has significantly increased as evidenced by the multiple extensions to turn lanes that flow onto Old Annapolis Rd from Columbia Road and Centennial Lane.

Like much of the county, Old Annapolis Road is not safe for walkers or cyclists or people with disabilities as there are no sidewalks, bike lines, or even a shoulder on much of the road. As a result, it is dangerous and challenging for people walking in our neighborhoods to parks and schools. Howard County prides itself in being one of the countries most healthy counties, yet residents can not walk to school, shopping or parks. We need existing streets to have sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes to be added.

We need a world-class complete streets law that will follow national best practices to ensure we build streets for ALL, not just cars. It better for our health, its better for our environment and it better for our county. I urge you to support and pass the kind of complete streets law we deserve.

Sincerely,
Cathy Nagle
9872 Fox Hill Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
cathy.nagle1@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Cathy Nagle <cathy.nagle1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 12:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR120-2019 We need a world-class complete streets law in Howard County

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I have lived off Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City for 17 years. In that time, the volume of car traffic along Old Annapolis Road has significantly increased as evidenced by the multiple extensions to turn lanes that flow onto Old Annapolis Rd from Columbia Road and Centennial Lane.

Like much of the county, Old Annapolis Road is not safe for walkers or cyclists or people with disabilities as there are no sidewalks, bike lines, or even a shoulder on much of the road. As a result, it is dangerous and challenging for people walking in our neighborhoods to parks and schools. Howard County prides itself in being one of the countries most healthy counties, yet residents can not walk to school, shopping or parks. We need existing streets to have sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes to be added.

We need a world-class complete streets law that will follow national best practices to ensure we build streets for ALL, not just cars. It better for our health, its better for our environment and it better for our county. I urge you to support and pass the kind of complete streets law we deserve.

Sincerely,
Cathy Nagle
9872 Fox Hill Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
cathy.nagle1@gmail.com