

CR 35-2016

Howard County Bike Master Plan

Erica Kennedy [ericaprentice@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:40 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Council members,

My family and I live right next to Lake Elkhorn. We love to run, walk, and bike around the lake. We also utilize the Patuxent Branch Trail regularly, which provides a beautiful and safe way to enjoy the trails Columbia has to offer. As a mother of a young child, having the ability to safely access trails to Downtown Columbia, without having to cross busy roadways, would be amazing. I support the Bike Master Plan, and I support and would use the Patuxent River Trail extension. Please approve the master plan as is, including the Patuxent River Trail extension to downtown Columbia. It would be a great asset to our already great community.

Erica Kennedy

HC Bike Master Plan

Aaron Fields [spirotot@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:20 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Hello,

I just wanted to let you know that, as a resident of Columbia, MD, and as a bicycle commuter that uses the Columbia Trails daily to get to/from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, I support the current Bike Master Plan as-is, in its entirety.

I wanted to be explicit about supporting the plan as-is because of the proposed Patuxent Branch Trail extension. I think that, as-is, it would be a wonderful addition to Columbia's network of trails, allowing one to ride a bicycle all the way from the Mall in Columbia to Savage and back without once having to cross a road, or even ride next to a car. Moreover, this route is fairly flat and very scenic, which will lower the "barrier to entry" to less ambitious riders who would otherwise not ride. Potential alternative routes are hillier, noisier (due to car traffic along Brokenland Parkway), and less scenic (again, Brokenland Parkway..).

I know I would use this trail regularly, and I know at at least a few other people who use bicycles as their primary mode of transportation who would also benefit from the Bike Master Plan being accepted as-is. I understand that some residents are upset about a trail being put in near their houses, but as someone who owns a home near a trail (Tamar Drive, near Jeffers Hill Elementary), I can say that my experience has not been unpleasant in the least. Yes, I see people using the trail -- but that's about it! I've never seen any trail user treading on lawns, and I've never heard any trail users making any loud noises of any sort. I think the reduction in quality of life for those living near a trail is about null, at worst.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Aaron

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-Aaron

Patuxent Branch Trail Extension

Phillip Dodge [dodge_phillip@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:04 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Council -

I'm writing to express my support for the bike master plan and to encourage you to approve the master plan as is, including the Patuxent River Trail Extension to downtown Columbia. My family makes frequent use of the Patuxent Branch Trail for walks, runs, and biking excursions. The idea of being able to go from our home in Kings Contrivance to downtown Columbia (without crossing or interacting with any major intersections) is a very exciting prospect for us. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Phillip Dodge

Bike Master Plan

Scott Lichtor [scott.lichtor@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:26 AM

To: CouncilMail

I've been a resident of Howard County for the last five years, and while I'm not able to attend the hearing tonight, I just wanted to express my strong support for adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan. Thanks for hearing me.

Scott Lichtor

Please Approve the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan!

Erin Taylor [erin.mctaylor@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 8:53 AM

To: CouncilMail

Please approve the Bicycle Master Plan and Complete Streets policy in Council Resolution 35-2016.

As a resident, pedestrian, and cyclist of Howard County with children in a walk zone to Stansfield elementary school, I support the plan for enhanced walkability and bike-ability of our neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Erin Taylor

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura McCarthy <redfun@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 7:43 AM
To: Terrasa, Jen; CouncilMail
Cc: ezsunl@comcast.net; Robert.McCarthy@ssa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Legislative Public Hearing on Monday March 21st including Bike Master Plan (CR35-2016)







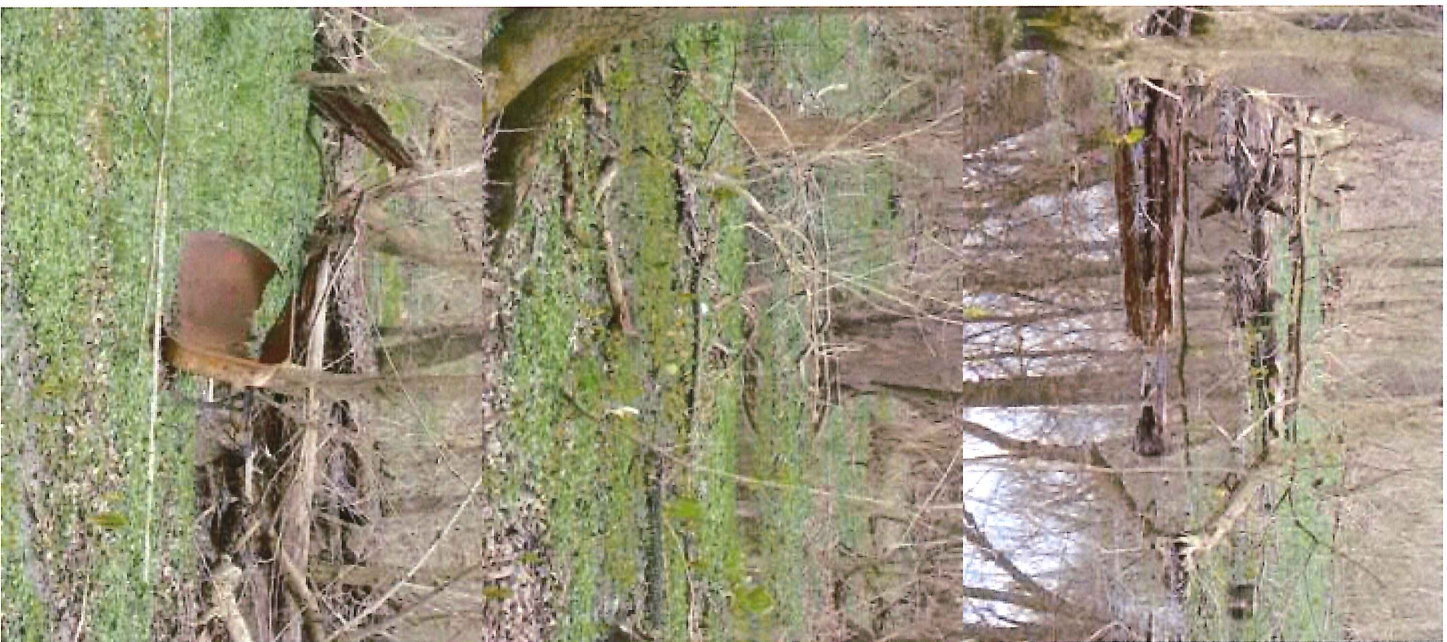




















Begin forwarded message:

From: "McCarthy, Robert" <Robert.McCarthy@ssa.gov>
Date: March 21, 2016 7:28:32 AM EDT
To: "'Laura McCarthy' (redfun@comcast.net)" <redfun@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Legislative Public Hearing on Monday March 21st including Bike Master Plan (CR35-2016)

Jen Terrasa,

Thanks you always for the information. I agree with you that the references should be removed from T7107 that involves a proposed bike path on the Allview Estates side of Little Patuxent river. This is the bike path that would be located along the Carlinda Ave. street (Robert's house). Also the first thing that pops out at me while viewing the bike path map is the proposed path along Broken Land Pky. We do not need an Allview Path and a Broken Land Pky path going to the same place. We should have the Broken Land Pky only and save some tax payer dollars. An interesting observation was pointed out to me by one of my neighbors recently. If we had an Allview Estates path it would require some type of bridge over the river to connect to another midterm path. It was further communicated to me that during a flooding situation a damming effect could occur at a bridge because of all the tree limbs and junk picked up by the river. If this ever happened we could be in for some serious flooding trouble. As you know we have 29 homes that are officially in the flood plain. Information from Howard County Digital Flood Insurance Rate map.

I know you have heard this from me before but we have a terrible situation with more than ever standing water across from my house in the woods. As you remember when the new sewer pipe was installed along the river it created a huge berm that is trapping water from draining into the river. This is further enhanced by the disappearance of the storm drainage ditch that was present before the new pipe went in. I am mentioning this because a bike path installed on top of the current berm would trap even more water. At this point we are afraid of an increase of mosquitoes and we are hearing more details about the Zika virus in the news.

We also have a work crew that is working in the woods relining the sewer pipe from what we hear. I have enclosed picture to show the work, standing water and what is left of my storm drain ditch.

Thanks for contacting me,

Robert McCarthy

From: Terrasa, Jen [<mailto:jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:19 PM

To: Terrasa, Jen

Subject: FW: Legislative Public Hearing on Monday March 21st including Bike Master Plan (CR35-2016)

Good evening,

Because you have contacted me in the past about Capital Project T7107 (Patuxent Branch Trail Extension), I want to call your attention to the County Executive's proposed Bike Master Plan which is pending before the County Council as [CR35-2016](#).

Please note that as proposed, the plan includes Phase I of T7107 which runs along the Little Patuxent River under US29 and Broken Land Parkway (BLP) and includes the development of bike lanes on Stevens Forest Road south of BLP as one of its short term/structured projects.

While Phase II of T7107 is listed as a medium term project (see Maps 3, 6, and 7 on page 26 and 29-30 of the plan), I think it is important for the plan to help focus County resources on key connections where there is a lot of community support for the project. And, because many of you have contacted me with your concerns about this portion of T7107, I think it is best to remove references to this part of the route, and I am working with the County Executive to amend the plan to reflect this. If this is important to you, my colleagues need to hear from you.

Please see below for additional information regarding the proposed Bike Master Plan and for ways to share your input.

All the best,

Jen

Jennifer Terrasa

Councilwoman, District 3

Howard County Council

(410) 313-2001 jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov

"Like" my page on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#)!

From: Terrasa, Jen

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:20 PM

To: Terrasa, Jen

Subject: Legislative Public Hearing on Monday March 21st including Bike Master Plan (CR35-2016)

Good evening,

Last week the County Executive filed the proposed Bike Master Plan for Council approval as [CR35-2016](#). A hearing on the plan will be held Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Banneker Room at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. A vote is expected on April 4, 2016.

As many of you know, the development of a Howard County Bicycle Master Plan began more than 2 1/2 years ago when the County contracted with Toole Design to develop general recommendations as well as a plan for short, medium, and long term projects to help Howard County become a truly bike friendly community, and to support the use of bicycles as an alternative means of transportation. This process was overseen by the Office of Transportation, which held multiple community meetings with bike advocates throughout the process.

As bike/ped advocate for many years, I am pleased to see a plan moving forward. I'm excited about the prospect of becoming a more bike friendly community, and of expanding opportunities for bikes to become a viable alternate means of transportation. I also think it is important for the plan to help focus County resources on key connections where there is a lot of community support for the project. I am very interested in having you share your input.

If you are interested in bike connections, or want to see where these paths will be located in your neighborhood, the entire proposed Bike Master Plan is included with [CR35-2016](#). Other information about the Bike Master Plan can be found at <http://bikehoward.com/>. You may want to take a closer look at pages 55-59 of the plan for a list of structured projects, or the maps of these projects beginning on page 60. For your convenience, I have attached a list of projects that I thought would be of particular interest to people in my district. The plan also contains routes that are proposed to be short, medium, and long term projects. To see the specifics in map form, click [here](#).

To sign-up to testify in person at the March 21st hearing, use the [electronic sign-up](#); or you can sign-up in person starting an hour before the hearing. As a reminder for those of you who can't join us in person, the sessions will be televised on GTv. In addition, you can watch the sessions live or at your convenience online at [Watch Us](#). To see all legislation pending before the Council this month, go to our [Pending Legislation](#) page.

Of course, written comments are always welcome. You can send your comments to me directly at jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov or share them with the entire Council at councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

And, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me or my assistant, Kate McLeod, at (410) 313-3108 or jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov if you have any questions of if there is ever anything we can do for you.

All the best,
Jen

Jennifer Terrasa
Councilwoman, District 3
Howard County Council
Phone: (410) 313-2001
Email: JTerrasa@HowardCountyMD.gov

“Like” my page on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#)!

* For more information on biking in Howard County, you can also visit the [Bicycle Advocates of Howard County's website](#) at <http://bikehoco.org/>.

CR35-2016 Bicycle Master Plan and a Complete Streets policy

Fran Horan [franhoran33@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 4:07 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Council Members,

Please approve the Bicycle Master Plan and Complete Streets policy.

We need you to put the county on a path that provides access to active transportation modes to citizens of all levels and abilities. Citizens need this for their personal health and quality of life. Businesses need this to help lower the cost growth curve of their health insurance, to improve worker productivity, and to strengthen their ability to compete nationally in recruiting new hires.

There is no single solution out there that simultaneously addresses such a wide range of problems and goals as active transportation does. Citizens are counting on you to make headway on many issues, and active transportation is a single cost effective tool that makes progress simultaneously on many issues.

Thank you,

Fran Horan
5314 Debbie Ct
Ellicott City

28 years working in the county, and 21 year resident in the county.

Various officer roles in the APL Cycling Club over the past 15 years.

Citizen commenter on the Connecting Columbia project and the county Bike Master Plan development.

Also member of Mid Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts, and the Ellicott City Morning Ride group.

Cr-35-2016 phase II of T7107

Eva Sunell [ezsunl@comcast.net]

Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2016 10:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

LPR will =Little Patuxent River

AE will =Allview Estates

BLP will = Broken Land Parkway

Reasons to negate this section of this proposed bike path: Floods,
Expense,Dangers,Necessity

Floods in regard to AE

- 1.LPR is a repeat flooding river. Since 2000, it has breached Carlinda Ave. 3 times.
2. FEMA has recently upped the flood zones along Carlinda, Allview, and Amherst Rds. More residents must buy flood insurance.
3. Town Center continues to increase in size. More parking lots and large buildings will send excess storm water into the LPR.
- 4.This proposed path will need a bridge connect it back to the BLP and Lake Elkhorn paths. This bridge will be right at the juncture where Lake Elkhorn,LPR, and Beaver Run all meet. During a five inch rain or more,this is a large volume of water in one small area. This bridge could create a dam when upstream debris washes down and gets caught on it. We have had debris such as large dead trees, wood piles, decks,lawn furniture,propane tanks and toys.

Expense

- 1.to keep flood waters flowing, the proposed bridge should rise above the LPR by 20-30 feet. A lower ,less reliable bridge would get wiped out with each flood.
2. Howard County would hopefully outfit AE with proper storm drains and retention ponds to assist us with the larger flooding problem this would create.
3. Howard County would hopefully resume yearly clearing of trees and debris-as they did in the 1980s-so when there is a flood(on average every 3 years), there is less debris to get caught under this bridge.
4. The banks of the LPR erode with each flood. Any path here would need many repairs and fill-ins over the years.

Dangers

1. If the path is raised to keep it above the wetlands, this will create more standing water for the residents that live here everyday. We don't go outside. from May-November due to the multitude of mosquitoes that carry West Nile and now Zika viruses.
2. A warning system would be necessary for this long path. The LPR can rise and over flow very quickly. In 2011, there was a water rescue on this river.
3. There are sinkholes in the flood plain. One could appear under the path. There are also dangerous undercuts along the bank,especially after a flood event.

Necessity

1. There is no need for this path. The bridge it needs will cause many flooding dangers for many residents of the AE area.

There is a parallel path that is proposed for BLP. This path makes sense. It will take people to shopping,schools,the library,food,medical and work.

The LPR path only makes a loop to go behind all of these places and makes the bicyclist have to double back on his route to get to a destination. Recent articles have mentioned how American bike paths seem to have no destination points. Howard County has many recreational paths. We need some that take our residents to a destination point such as work and shopping.

Please delete this path from your plan. There are more logical answers to bikers needs than a location that on theory looks wonderful but is really fraught with major problems of money, upkeep and dangers and put long standing residents at risk.

August and Eva Sunell
6730 Carlinda Ave.
Columbia 21046

Eva