

Bridge Columbia

Chrisgphillips1 [chrisgphillips1@verizon.net]

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 2:25 PM

To: CouncilMail

Please preserve or increase funding for Bridge Columbia. It will give Columbia an iconic identity and pull together East and West Columbia: Blandaire Park and the Mall, the Community College, and the hospital.

Chris Phillips

RENEW HOWARD/Bridge Columbia

TCalvert [tcalvert@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 1:12 PM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** manager@oaklandmills.org

Councilmembers: This is a note urging you to retain the RENEW HOWARD money in the budget. A quick look around our community on the eastside of Columbia clearly and quickly points to this vital need. Our Oakland Mills Village Board stands ready to participate and assist you in this vital initiative. I am also strongly urging you to retain the Bridge Columbia funding that is outlined in County Executive Kittleman's Capital Budget. The completion of this project will not only enhance Columbia, but it would also upgrade and provide more efficient and enhanced transportation in and around community. Thx in advance for your support, Tina Calvert

Request to Retain Bridge Columbia Funding

Gerry Witte [gwwitte22@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:27 PM

To: CouncilMail

This is my request to to retain the Bridge Columbia funding in the County Executive's Capital Budget.

Thank You

A Resident of Columbia

FY 2017 Capital Budget: Downtown Columbia Bridge (Bridge Columbia)

Cathy Spain [cathyspain@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 2:00 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Councilmembers:

I write to support the proposed funding for Bridge Columbia in the capital budget proposal submitted by County Executive Kittleman. I support a new bridge for several reasons:

1. Redevelopment of Oakland Mills: It will help to attract investment for the redevelopment of Oakland Mills Village Center. Developers have told our Village Board that better access to Downtown Columbia will make Oakland Mills a more desirable location for investment.
2. Remedy for Traffic Congestion and Parking Demand: It will provide better transportation options to drivers and non-drivers making Columbia less auto-centric. I avoid Downtown Columbia and the Mall currently at certain times of the year and on certain days. With the growth that is projected in residential units, entertainment facilities, and commercial space, parking and congestion will make Downtown Columbia an even less desirable destination. Providing better access to Downtown is good for business as well as residents.
3. Transit Option for Seniors and Others: I strongly support the goal of making Columbia a bikeable/walkable community. However, with the aging of our population in Columbia and Howard County, attention must also be given to seniors and others who need more and better transit options. I support the development of a circulator bus system that connects Wilde Lake, Downtown Columbia, and Oakland Mills to facilitate movement in Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods. Circulators have proven very successful in many communities. They have routes that are easy to understand and the service frequency encourages use. A transit/bike/pedestrian bridge over Route 29 will facilitate this type of service along the corridor extending from Howard County General Hospital and Howard Community College to Blandair Park and through Downtown Columbia. There are a myriad of commercial, educational, recreational, and religious and other destinations along this route.
4. Safety and Security: The current bridge is so narrow it does not meet current standards for bike/pedestrian pathways. It should be wider to make the shared use pathway a safer experience for bicyclists and pedestrians. Many residents in Oakland Mills do not use the bridge because the pathway leading to the bridge is deemed unsafe. One way to provide a sense of security is to have more eyes on the street with regular bus service and to give residents the option of riding a bus to and from Downtown Columbia.
5. A Gateway to Columbia: The current bridge is an eyesore—a rusty, enclosed cage. A new, iconic bridge will stand as a gateway to the beautiful, planned community of Columbia and will be emblematic of Columbia and Howard County's commitment to sustainability.

As a member of the core group of Friends of Bridge Columbia and a 39-year resident of Oakland Mills, I urge your support for Bridge Columbia in the FY 2017 capital budget. Thank you.

Cathy Spain
President
The Spain Group LLC
6167 Camelback Lane

Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 730-9568 (o)
(443) 538-1201 (m)
cathyspain@verizon.net

Bridge Columbia

Gwen Martinsen [gmartins19@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 12:23 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am opposed to retaining funding for Bridge Columbia, project B3863, \$350,000 in FY2017 and \$500,000 in FY2018 in the County Executive's Capital Budget.

It is my firm conviction that this entire project is not a good use of county and taxpayers money. Those who are promoting the project are not considering what could be done with the money that would benefit the entire Columbia community nor are they considering the negative impacts of the plan on the neighborhoods involved.

Gwen L. Martinsen, Ph.D.

support Bridge Columbia

Joan Aron [joanaron@ymail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:34 AM

To: CouncilMail

To: Howard County Council

From: Joan L. Aron, 5457 Marsh Hawk Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Please support Bridge Columbia funding in the County Executive's Capital Budget under project B3863. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the amounts are \$350,000 and \$500,000. Oakland Mills Village will benefit from this project.

Thank you

RENEW Howard & Bridge Columbia

Lindsay Cox [lindsay.m.cox@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:09 AM**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan

Good morning,

I am writing as a citizen of Howard County in the Oakland Mills neighborhood of Columbia to urge the council to retain Allan Kittleman's proposed budget for the RENEW HOWARD project for the next fiscal year. Our neighborhood is made up of predominately older homes, many in need of revitalization but belong to lower income families who cannot afford the necessary repairs. This money will be very helpful in allowing current homeowners to make updates to their homes, which will keep our property values up, and will entice local businesses to stay in the area. Please support Allan Kittleman's budget proposal.

I am also writing to urge you to retain the Bridge Columbia funding in the County Executive's Capital Budget. The bridge is in need of major repairs to make it safer. It is a great connector between central Columbia and our community, but it is unsafe at night time. We need more lighting and repairs to make it truly a commuter option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

~Lindsay Cox~