



Montgomery County Council
Gabe Albornoz, President
Evan Glass, Vice President

Stella Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: CIP Budget Hearing - FY 23-28

February 8, 2022

Council President and members of the Council, my name is Peter Gray and I represent the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. I am speaking on behalf of the 1200+ WABA members and several thousands of other supporters who live in Montgomery County.

WABA asks the Council to commit to constructing all of the Tier One Bicycle Master Plan segments located in four Equity Focus Areas (Wheaton, White Oak, Langley Park and Silver Spring). This Equitable Investment in Montgomery County's Bike Network is a \$110m commitment over the six year CIP and will create safe, bikeable/walkable networks in the four Equity areas, will make access to transit easier and safer, and help the County achieve its climate and Vision Zero goals. By funneling budget dollars to the Equity areas, the Council will demonstrate its commitment to funding safer walking, biking and access to transit for those residents who need this investment the most.

WABA wants the Council to restore \$19m in cuts to the Parks department budget proposed by the County Executive. Such cuts will impair Parks' ability to maintain current trails, including those in and around Wheaton Regional Park, and hamper Parks' ability to move forward with renovations and rehabilitation of key trails, including Sligo Creek, Rock Creek, Long Branch and the Capital Crescent Trail.

Finally, WABA asks the Council to restore \$43 million in funding cut in the Executive's proposed budget for the Capital Crescent Trail tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue in the CIP for FY 26-28. This comes with the understanding that the County will still need to obtain an additional \$12.4m from the Federal or state governments. The tunnel is a key safe connection for all trail users regionally and will provide a safe connection for people biking and walking, especially for vulnerable road users, including children, the elderly and those with disabilities.