



# Greater Olney Civic Association

Transportation Committee

Bowie Mill Road Bikeway Project Update – October 2015

*Daniel Rubenstein, Chair  
Bikeways and Pedestrian Subcommittee  
GOCA Transportation Committee  
October 13, 2015*

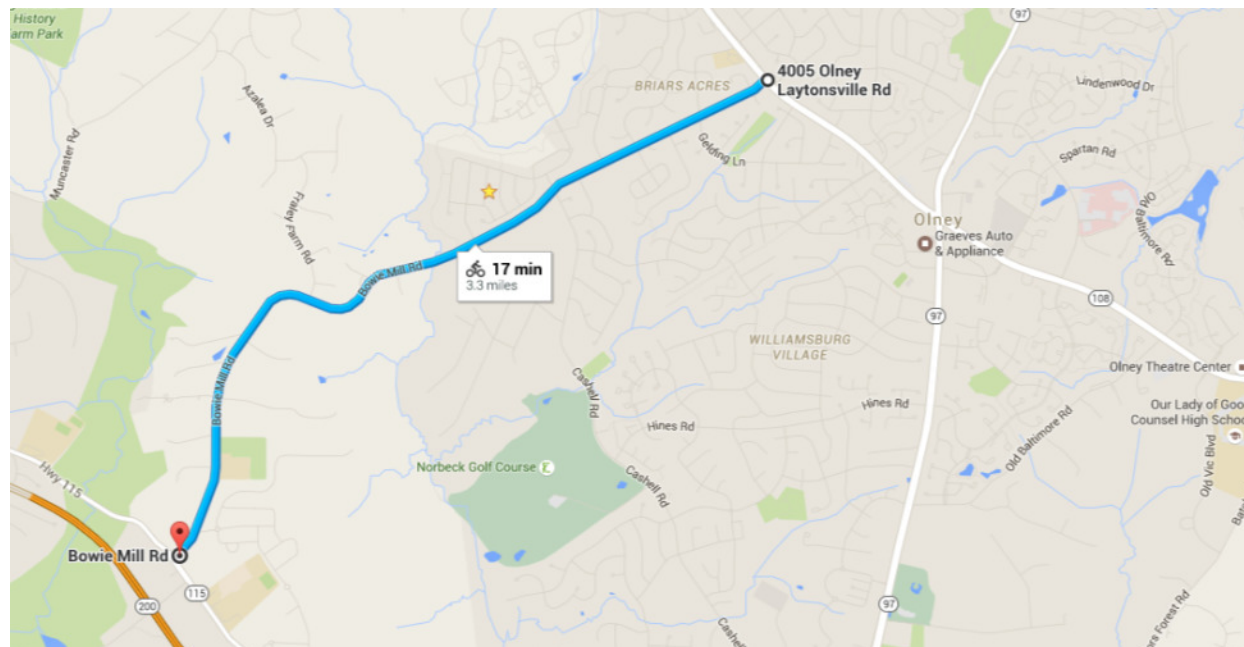


# Project History

- GOCA Transportation Committee identified opportunity to expand bikeways in and around Olney community
- Lack of connectivity between Olney and Countywide bike trail system
- Focus was to leverage existing County bikeway projects to create link to schools, mass transit

# Project History

- Priority corridor was identified: Bowie Mill Road
  - Beginning at Route 108 (Olney-Laytonsville Road)
  - Ending at Route 115 (Muncaster Mill Road)



# Project History

- Advantages:
  - Connect existing Route 108 bikeway (West/East through Olney) to future Needwood Road bikeway
  - Bowie Mill Road Bikeway would provide access to:
    - Sequoyah Elementary School
    - Magruder High School
    - Lake Needwood<sup>◇</sup>
    - Shady Grove Metrorail Station<sup>◇</sup>

<sup>◇</sup> Via connection to Needwood Road trail



# GOCA Resolution

Approved at April 14, 2015 Executive Board Meeting:

**Whereas GOCA has identified that Olney lacks substantive bicycle connections to other areas within Montgomery County and the region as a whole; and**

**Whereas GOCA's Transportation Committee has determined that bike lanes along Bowie Mill Road represent a unique and viable opportunity for regional connectivity to schools and mass transit; and**

**Whereas Bowie Mill Road currently lacks the necessary infrastructure to ensure bicycle safety, but is designated for such improvement in the Montgomery County Bikeways Master Plan ("BL-20")**

**GOCA hereby resolves to endorse the recommendation of its Transportation Committee and request inclusion of the Bowie Mill Road bike lanes in the County's Capital Improvement Plan**



# Project Advocacy

- Letters and E-mails sent to County Delegates, State Senators, and Montgomery County Councilmembers throughout summer 2015
- Received overwhelmingly positive responses:

KAREN S. MONTGOMERY  
14th Legislative District  
Montgomery County

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education

Environment

Ethics and Election Law

Labor, Licensing, and Regulation



## *The Senate of Maryland*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 10, 2015

James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 202  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3625 • 410-841-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Fax 301-858-3618 • 410-841-3618  
Karen.Montgomery@senate.state.md.us

The Honorable Hans Riemer  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Councilmember Riemer:

I am writing in support of Mr. Daniel C. Rubenstein's letter dated August 18, 2015 to request your assistance with the construction of Class 2 bike lanes along Bowie Mill Road between Maryland Route 108 and Maryland Route 115.

As stated by Mr. Rubenstein, many residents who make the economical choice to cycle lack the vital connection to schools, parks, and importantly, mass transit. GOCA represents a large number of eco-conscious constituents who are currently not being served by the county's bike lanes. Without the means to travel car-free to Metro rail and bus stations, cyclists have been forced to travel by car.

Please consider the request from Mr. Rubenstein and GOCA. Residents across Montgomery County will be better served for this improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Montgomery".

Karen S. Montgomery  
Maryland State Senate (D-14)



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

September 28, 2015

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

As you prepare your recommendations for the FY17-22 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), we would like to bring an important bikeway project to your attention. The Bowie Mill Road Bikeway Project would support the construction of a bi-directional bikeway along Bowie Mill Road between Route 108 (Olney-Laytonsville Road) and Route 115 (Muncaster Mill Road). We respectfully request that you include this project in the Facility Planning CIP as part of your recommendations for the FY17-22 CIP, and that you consider including funding for facility planning as early as possible during this CIP period.

The Bowie Mill Road Bikeway is an important project, and has support from the Greater Olney Civic Association, Senator Karen Montgomery, and Delegates Anne Kaiser, Eric Luedtke, and Craig Zucker. While the Needwood Road Bikepath (P501304) will connect the Shady Grove Metro Station to the Intercounty Connector (ICC/MD 200) and Colonel Zadok Magruder High School, the proposed Bowie Mill Road Bikeway will complete the connection to the Olney community, providing a critical missing link between Olney, nearby schools, parks, trails, and transit. We recognize that there are numerous challenges with this project, including the possibility of right-of-way acquisition; however, we believe that adding this project to the Facility Planning CIP will allow for consideration of alternatives without delaying the project.

We share your commitment to supporting Montgomery County's bikeways, and we believe that this project will strengthen and enhance our existing bikeway networks, taking more cars off our roads, therefore making Montgomery County greener. Thank you for your consideration of this important project. Please do not hesitate to contact us with additional information or concerns.

Sincerely,

Hans Riemer  
Councilmember, At-large

Nancy Navarro  
Councilmember, District 4



# Discussion

- Transportation Committee originally recommended on-road bike lanes for Bowie Mill Road Bikeway
- Recommendation was consistent with then-existing Bikeways Master Plan (“BL-20”)
- Bikeways Subcommittee discussed preference for fully separated bike lanes, but selected option most likely to obtain project support + funding

# On Road Bike Lanes - Example:



# Discussion

- Since original recommendation was made, Montgomery County has begun large scale initiative to update the Bicycle Master Plan
- Coordination with County Planners, MCDOT, and MNCPPC
- Supported by Montgomery County Council





# Discussion

- County is currently requesting feedback via online, interactive map
- Identify need for additional infrastructure and improvements to existing bikeways and trails
- First step in comprehensive program to update Bicycle Master Plan and expand bikeways countywide



# Discussion

- Attended Bicycle Master Plan Community Meeting in Silver Spring on September 15
- Spoke with representatives from County
- Learned that Bowie Mill Bikeway is “on the radar”
  
- Also learned that county planners are considering “upgrades” to proposed and existing on-road bike lanes to implement fully separated bike lanes

# Separated Bike Lanes - Example:



# Separated Bike Lanes - Example:





# Advantages of Separated Bike Lanes

- Provides clear separation between vehicular and bicycle traffic
- Expands range of potential users to include casual riders, not just commuters
- **Increased safety**



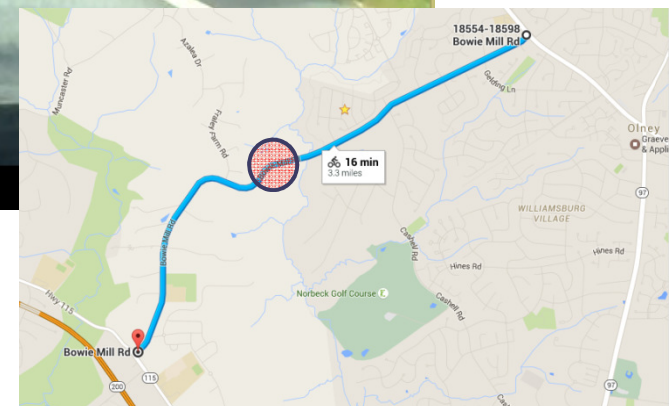
# Proposal

- **Transportation Committee requests GOCA Resolution in support of fully Separated Bike Lanes**
- Bowie Mill Road speed limit is 40 m.p.h.
- Sight distance is particularly limited between Norbeck Grove and Fraley Farm
- Traffic volumes are especially heavy during peak commuting times, which directly correlate with school bell times

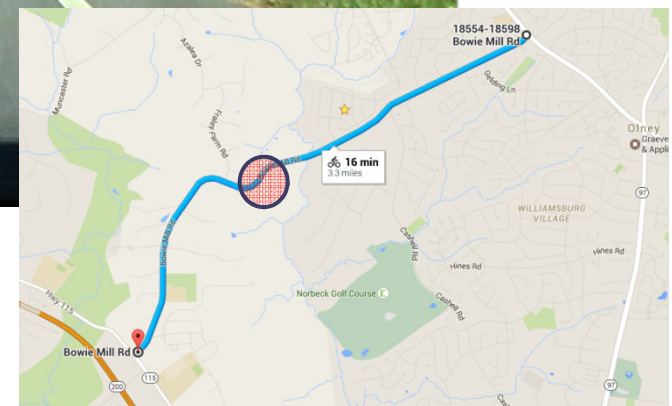
- Bowie Mill Road WB –  
*near New Home Presbyterian Church*



Limited sight distance – left

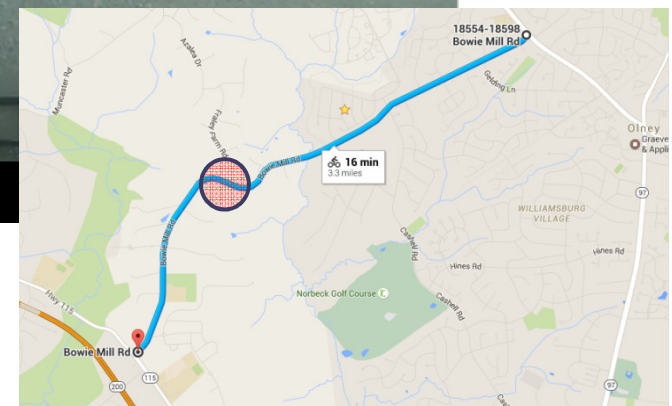


- Bowie Mill Road WB –  
*near Bowie Mill Estates*



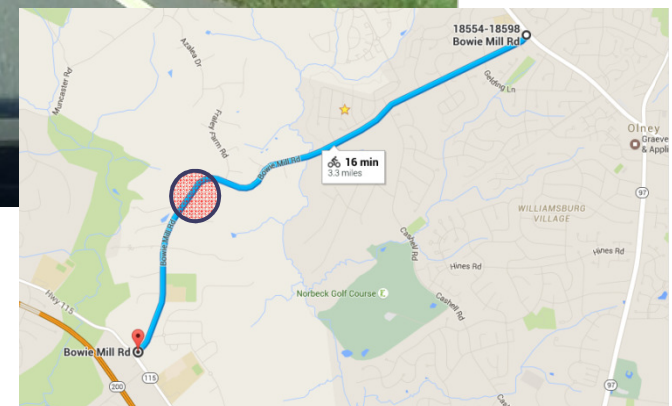
Limited sight distance – right

- Bowie Mill Road WB –  
*near Fraley Farm*



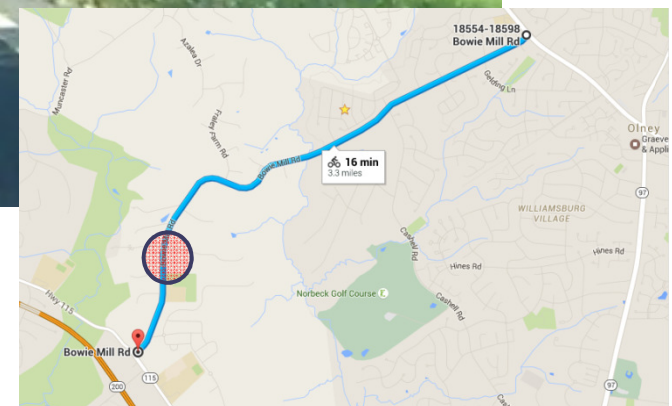
**Blind intersection + limited sight distance**

- Bowie Mill Road WB –  
*approaching Dun Horse Lane*



Potential for excessive speed

- **Bowie Mill Road WB –**  
*approaching Sequoyah Elementary School*



**Rush hour + school traffic**

# Critical Factors

- Olney community best served by bikeway that can accommodate *all* levels of riding experience
- Students likely to use bikeway to access schools
- Excessive speed is a safety concern
- Traffic volumes/counts are not accurately reflected by mid-day averages
- **County needs to consider totality of circumstances regarding safety, in light of potential users and peak demand times**



# Proposed Resolution





## Future Consideration

- Proposed Bowie Mill Road Bikeway will need to safely connect to Needwood Road Trail
- < 1/4 Mile gap between two bikeways, near Preserve at Rock Creek and Casey House
- County should begin to explore alternatives to Muncaster Mill Road to make connection







# Thank You

Daniel Rubenstein, Chair  
Bikeways and Pedestrian Subcommittee  
GOCA Transportation Committee  
[RubensteinDC@gmail.com](mailto:RubensteinDC@gmail.com)