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May 7, 2015

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Parks
9500 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Subject: Grant for North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail

To Whom It May Concern:

The Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) represents over 35 homeowner and civic associations in the Olney Master Plan area. For over 30 years, GOCA has promoted the civic, cultural, and economic welfare of the Olney community.

As the Current President of GOCA, I am writing to express our full support of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Montgomery Parks proposal to construct the North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail.

With the construction of this trail, this project will provide a critical segment linking the regional park trail system from the District of Columbia northward to the Route 200 bikeway and through Rock Creek. All of Montgomery County residents will benefit as this provides a critical north/south trail linkage and a safe, alternative transportation option for commuters and residents within the county.

Connecting the trail is important to the Olney community as it is a missing piece of a larger network. GOCA feels the master plan alignment that keeps the trail within the natural area is preferred over directing users onto roads, as it offers safety while protecting the environment.

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks continues to be a key partner with our community, thanks to the expertise, experience, and hard work provided by its staff and volunteers, as well as its extensive community reach. Their work to provide alternate transportation accessibility and safety, as well as improve environmental stewardship in our county, aligns with the needs and desires of our residents.

We fully support the proposed North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail project. Thank you for your time and attention to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

John Webster
President