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November 16, 2015

Mr. Gregory C. Johnson
Office of the Administrator
State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Subject: MD-108 Shared-Use Path

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) represents over 35 homeowner and civic associations, which collectively comprise over 80% of the households in the Olney Master Plan area. For nearly 40 years, GOCA has promoted the civic, cultural, and economic welfare of the Olney community.

At our October 13 meeting, GOCA Members reviewed SHA's plans for Roadway and Pedestrian Safety Improvements on MD 108 from MD 650 to Sharp Street and unanimously passed the following resolution supporting the project and requesting the extension of the shared-use path system to include the entire length of the project plus a westward connection to Dr. Bird Road:

Whereas Route 108 east of Dr Bird Rd is a narrow two-lane road with no shoulders and high vehicle volume during AM and PM peak hours; and

Whereas there are two public schools (Sherwood ES and Sherwood HS) along this section of Route 108; and

Whereas the current plan is to build a trail from 650 to Brooke Road only, thereby leaving no connection to Sherwood ES

GOCA hereby resolves to support the 10 foot wide multi-use trail to be built the FULL length of the Project Limits (650 to Sharp St) and requests the shared use path be extended west to Dr Bird Rd in order to provide safe routes to the two schools for students and for commuters from the Olney area.

Currently the plan is to build a multi-use trail from New Hampshire Ave to Brooke Road only. This would leave no ADA compliant connection from Sandy Spring to Sharp Street and Sherwood Elementary School. Since the goal of this project is to comply with ADA requirements, the multi-use trail needs to be built the full length of the project limit.

To add to this, Route 108 between Olney and Sandy Spring is a regular commuter route for both work and schools. This section of road is narrow, winding, and without any safety shoulder. The Montgomery County Bikeways Master plan calls for a multi-use 10 foot wide trail on the north side of 108, connecting Olney to Sandy Spring. Currently

there is a short section of trail just east of Sherwood Elementary School and Sharp Street, ending just before Marden Lane. GOCA requests this project be extended west to connect to the existing sidewalk that currently ends at Dr Bird Road. This additional 2,000 feet of multi-use trail would connect Olney and Sandy Spring, thus allowing safe passage for Sherwood Elementary and Sherwood High School students to access their schools by foot or bicycle.

With the heavy traffic at rush hour/school start times, this section of narrow road becomes very dangerous for those who choose to travel along 108 on foot, bicycles, or in wheelchairs as illustrated in the attached photos. It is common to see dirt paths along this section of road developed by students and others traveling between Olney, Sandy Spring, and Sherwood High School. This stresses just how important a multi-use trail is along this section of road.

For the safety of students, citizens with handicaps, runners, and walkers, SHA needs to build the multi-use trail the full length of the *MD108 from MD 650 to Sharp Street Roadway and Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project* with a westward connection to Dr. Bird Road.

We look forward to your favorable consideration of and response to our request.

Sincerely,

John Webster
President, GOCA

Cc: District 14 Delegation
Montgomery County Council
Mr. Casey Anderson, Planning Board Chair
Mr. Fred Boyd, Community Planner, M-NCPPC