

Hilary Phillips-Rogers
President
VICTORIA SPRINGS

Carol Frenkel
Executive Vice President
OLNEY MILL

Curtis Chappell
First Vice President
OLNEY SQUARE

Irina Norrell
Second Vice President
NORBECK MEADOWS

Karen Nordstrom
Recording Secretary
OLNEY MILL

Ryan Martin
Corresponding Secretary
BROOKVILLE KNOLLS

Jeff Duce
Treasurer
NORBECK GROVE

Matt Quinn
Immediate Past President
CHERRYWOOD

April 19, 2021

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: Bowie Mill Road Bikeway Project

Dear Honorable Members of the Montgomery County Council,

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 over 45 years, GOCA has promoted the civic, cultural, and economic welfare of the Olney community.

The Bowie Mill Road Bikeway project is a proposed, fully separated bikeway that will run 3.3 miles between Olney-Laytonsville Road (Maryland Route 108) and Muncaster Mill Road (Maryland Route 115). Once constructed, the Bowie Mill Road Bikeway will complete the final missing link between Olney's 35,000 residents and the Shady Grove Metrorail Station, and will directly and safely connect our community to two schools, a County Park, the Intercounty Connector (ICC) Trail, and the Upper Rock Creek Trail System.

GOCA understands that the County Executive recently recommended an additional one-year delay in the continued funding of the design phase of the Bowie Mill Road Bikeway in his Proposed FY22 Operating Budget – from FY24 to FY25. This recommendation follows last year's implemented delay from FY23 to FY24 due to COVID-19 related budget restrictions.

GOCA continues to consider the Bowie Mill Road Bikeway an urgent and critical transportation priority for our region, and notes that initial outreach and planning with the County began in 2014-2015. If this additional delay is implemented, and based on the County's estimated schedule set forth in the Capital Budget, construction would not be completed until 2030 at the earliest – reflecting a full 15 years from start to finish. On this basis, **GOCA respectfully requests that the Montgomery County Council reject the County Executive's recommendation to further delay funding this important project.**

We appreciate your attention to this request, and we look forward to your response.

GOCA

Greater Olney Civic Association

P.O. Box 212 • Olney, Maryland • 20830
www.goca.org

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Cordially yours,

Hilary Phillips-Rogers
President, GOCA

Cc: Maryland District 14 Delegation
Maryland District 19 Delegation