

Jolene Ivey Chair At-Large Council Member

PRINCE GEORGE'S

"Serving the People of Prince George's County!"

February 25, 2025

Janie Nham and Victoria Caudullo Transportation Land Use Connections Program Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20002-4290

RE: Letter of Endorsement for Northern Prince George's East West Bikeway (NPGEWB) Planning Study

Dear Janie Nham and Victoria Caudullo:

The Prince George's County Council is pleased to support the Transportation and Land Use Connections (TLC) program grant application for the Northern Prince George's East West Bikeway (NPGEWB) Planning Study. The NPGEWB would ultimately consist of a bikeway connecting directly to five existing shared-use paths, three of which are parallel to each other in north-south alignments. Attainment of this vision is a long-term goal and funding of this study will be the first step to success. While this project is being coordinated through DPW&T, it will include partnerships with a number of entities, including Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), several municipalities, Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration, and others.

The Study would evaluate the feasibility of a route starting at the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis (WB&A) Trail in Lanham through New Carrollton, the Riverdale area, College Park, and connecting to the Northwest Branch Trail in Lewisdale, as well as potential alternatives. It would consist of a combination of shared-use paths and on-road bikeways. The project would promote multimodal (bicycle, pedestrian, transit) options as an alternative to driving, as the proposed bikeway would serve two MARC stations, two Metrorail stations and several Purple Line stations, and connect to the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis (WB&A), Folly Branch, Northeast Branch, Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail, and Northwest Branch Trails. These trails connect with the rest of the region including to the Sligo Creek Trail, the Paint Branch Trail, Indian Creek Trail, and Anacostia River Trail. The NPGEWB's project furthers the County's goals to provide additional opportunities for bicycle commuting, recreation, and tourism, and associated economic development in Prince George's County.

This project aligns with policies of the *Preliminary Go Prince George's: Countywide Master Plan of Transportation*, which includes the following:

Policy BK4: Evaluate and capitalize on opportunities presented by available rights-of-way to fill gaps and extend shared-use paths and to create greenways and linear parks throughout Prince George's County, linked by and featuring shared-use paths.

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> Additionally, this project addresses the Transportation Planning Board's priorities, including support for the National Capital Trail Network, bicycling in high-capacity transit areas, and access in Equity Emphasis Areas. It will also support the University of Maryland's Facilities Master Plan, the TLC funded Discovery District Multi-Use Trail Transit Access Plan, DPW&T's Prince George's County Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Project, and the Carole Highlands Safe Mobility Study.

We respectfully request your full consideration of Prince George's County DPW&T's application for funding of this important and beneficial study. Should you like to discuss this further, please contact Michael Jackson, Active Transportation Planner with the Prince George's County Planning Department at <u>michael.jackson@ppd.mncppc.org.</u>

Sincerely,

Jolene Avey

Jolene Ivey Council Chair