



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 20, 2014

Ms. Mary Bradford  
Director  
Department of Parks  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Mr. Arthur Holmes  
Director  
Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Directors Bradford and Holmes,

A reoccurring issue, one that I am sure your offices are aware of, has once again come to the forefront of discussion following the recent snowstorms that have struck our region. The condition of the Capital Crescent Trail and its lack of maintenance following snow events is an issue of great concern to our residents who rely on our trail infrastructure for commuting purposes. Given the county's commitment to increased non-auto mode shares and significant carbon emissions by 2030, I think it is time to revisit this issue and see if a solution can be found.

The Capital Crescent Trail is local treasure enjoyed recreationally by numerous residents throughout the year. But for those who do not own a car or perhaps have chosen to only own one family car, the trail represents a critical corridor for getting to their workplace. Each year, I hear from residents who report the difficulty of traversing the trail after a snow fall or icy conditions due to the lack of maintenance and snow removal. As a result, commuters are forced onto busy and dangerous roads that often do not have the appropriate bicycling infrastructure, a situation made worse by the accumulation of snow in the curb lanes from the plows.

I understand that your departments' resources are stretched thin and that funding for snow removal along the trail has never been a priority in your respective budgets. However, I would strongly encourage you to revisit this decision and examine ways in which snow removal along your respective portions of the Capital Crescent Trail can be accomplished.

Specifically, I would like to request that you prepare an estimate for snow removal and winter maintenance on the trail in time for the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee to review that figure during the Council's budget deliberations this April.

In my opinion, not maintaining the Capital Crescent Trail does not only a great disservice to residents who rely on the trail for commuting purposes, but also to the County's goal of being a more walkable and bikeable community. Montgomery County prides itself on the network of trails and bike paths built within its borders. It is only appropriate that we maintain those networks to the maximum extent possible.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



Roger Berliner  
Councilmember  
District 1



Hans Riemer  
Councilmember  
At-Large



Cherri Branson  
Councilmember  
District 5



Phil Andrews  
Councilmember  
District 3



George Levant  
Councilmember  
At-large

CC: Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive  
Francoise Carrier, Chair, M-NCPPC  
Montgomery County Councilmembers  
John Boyd, Cabin John Maintenance Facility Director  
Keith Compton, Division of Highway Services, MCDOT  
Shane Farthing, WABA  
Jack Cochrane, MoBike  
Marlene Michaelson, Montgomery County Council staff  
Glenn Orlin, Montgomery County Council staff