



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 8, 2011

Mr. Shane Farthing  
Executive Director  
Washington Area Bicyclist Association  
2599 Ontario Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Farthing:

Thank you very much for the recent letter from Mr. Titus, Ms. Klieforth and yourself representing the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) in which concerns were raised about the need for bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility in Prince George's County. As was noted in the letter, I am a very strong advocate for transit-oriented development and developing the kind of neighborhoods that bring communities together in environments with better access and mobility.

I also share your belief that walking and biking is beneficial for the environment by getting cars off the road, as well as in addressing the physical well being of individuals. And, as you are well aware, I very much share your goals for looking to the transit-oriented redevelopment model for creating a more vibrant, sustainable model for the County that emphasizes strong pedestrian and bicycle connections. I am pleased to state that this is a central theme of my model for growing the County. However, this change will not come overnight, but working together, I look forward to seeing this kind of sustainable growth come to fruition.

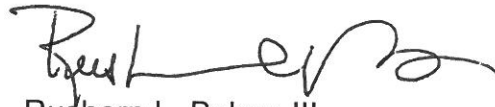
In making the transition to a more sustainable County, I intend to work with our County agencies and specifically with the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). The Prince George's County Bicycle and Trails Advisory Group (BTAG), as you know, has worked with and advised County agencies since the group was founded in 1998. The BTAG, which is chaired by M-NCPPC's staff persons, Eric Foster and Fred Shaffer (Mr. Shaffer also serves as the M-NCPPC Trails Coordinator), has been a very helpful organization in moving these issues forward. And, I understand that you and your members serve on the BTAG, as well as individuals from DPW&T, and in particular, that the Director does have a Special Assistant, Victor Weissberg, assigned to assist you in these matters. Working together, staff will facilitate the advancement of CIP bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit oriented development communities in the County, and they will address bicycle and pedestrian safety access issues in general.

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While your concern about staffing is well taken, and that planning and implementation serve different functions, it is important to note that allotted staff resources also include Daniel Janousek, a senior planner with M-NCPPC, who is dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian issues. DPW&T staff coordinates regularly with M-NCPPC on the implementation of plans and how to best fulfill walkable and bikable communities.

I look forward to working with you and others in the bicycle and pedestrian advocacy community to advance the agenda of better bicycle and pedestrian connectivity as issues that can improve individual health, as well as create stronger communities and a more sustainable environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rushern L. Baker, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

cc: The Honorable Eric Olson, Vice Chair, County Council  
The Honorable Andrea Harrison, County Council Member, District 5  
Haitham A. Hijazi, Director, DPW&T  
James Titus, Director, WABA  
Barbara Klieforth, President, WABA