

June 11, 2025

Secretary Paul Wiedefeld  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Dr.  
Hanover, MD 21076

Executive Director Bruce Gartner  
Maryland Transportation Authority  
2310 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21224

Secretary Joshua Kurtz  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld, Director Gartner, and Secretary Kurtz:

The undersigned organizations express their support for a separated bicycle and pedestrian facility to be included in the design and construction of the new Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

There are many bridges throughout the US that have separated and safe pedestrian and bicycle paths. The path would provide safe access from the Eastern Shore to the Western, and connect the trail systems in which Anne Arundel and Queen Anne's counties have made substantial investments that are well-used and enjoyed by the communities we serve. More broadly, the path would bring regional and national recognition to the local area, as it would connect to the East Coast Greenway (a National Trail from Maine to Key West), the 911 National Memorial Trail (which connects all three crash sites), and the American Discovery Trail (a Delaware to California National Trail).

As a transportation facility, the shared-use path would provide the first-ever option for commuting by both regular bicycle and by electric bicycle to either side. Given the traffic congestion challenges that the bay crossing endures, having the ability to pedal across will provide many people with the chance to shorten their commuting times simply by hopping on to a bicycle. Bridges across the country in urban and suburban areas have shown that by providing separated, safe bicycle access, many people will choose to commute by bicycle, helping to alleviate congestion.

We envision many other recreational activities that a shared-use path would provide, such as bird-watching, photography, strolling, jogging and running. The path would offer safe access to exercise, recreation and the natural maritime viewscape.

Improving quality of life through either recreational activities or by adding exercise to daily commuting has many indirect benefits to our communities: increased property values, reduced healthcare costs, increased tourism and related commercial revenues, and less stress due to happier people.

We also support including bus transit and ferry connections on the bridge in order to provide multi-modal options that enhance transportation choices for our members. Adding multi-modal options has the potential to moderate vehicle traffic volumes and importantly, provides bridge users with additional ways to cross in busy times.

We see this as a once in a lifetime opportunity to not only improve the quality of life for everyone in the iconic Chesapeake Bay region, but to make the area a world-class destination as many other bridge paths have done.

We stand with our partners and our elected leaders in encouraging you to include the path in the project.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Bike Maryland ([REDACTED]) or [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County ([REDACTED]).

Sincerely,

#### **National**

1. Adventure Cycling Association
2. American Discovery Trail
3. Coalition for Smart Growth
4. League of American Bicyclists
5. People For Bikes
6. Rails-To-Trails Conservancy

#### **Regional**

7. East Coast Greenway
8. Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE)
9. September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
10. Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)

#### **State and Local**

11. AARP Maryland
12. Annapolis Bicycle Club
13. Annapolis Bicycle Racing Team
14. Annapolis Triathlon Club
15. Annapolis Velo
16. Anne Arundel Blur
17. Baltimore Area Bicycling Association (BABA)
18. Baltimore Bicycling Club (BBC)
19. Baltimore Youth Cycling
20. Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places (BaltPOP)
21. Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA)
22. Big Bean Coffee
23. Bike Doctor of Annapolis
24. Bike Doctor Arnold
25. Bike Doctor Crofton
26. Bike Doctor of Kent Island
27. Bike Harford
28. Bike HoCo
29. Bike Maryland
30. Bikemore
31. Bravo Equipment & Construction Co, Inc.
32. Central Maryland Transit Alliance
33. Chesapeake Cycling Club
34. Crofton Family Bike Shop
35. The Cycle Mill
36. DMV Cycling Alliance
37. Each One Reach One/Largo Bowie Cycling Club
38. Frederick Bicycle Coalition
39. Frederick Pedalers Bicycle Club
40. Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails
41. Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail
42. Friends of Queen Anne Trails
43. Maryland Eastern Shore Trail Network
44. Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club
45. Parvilla Cycles
46. Pedal Pushers
47. PedalPowerKids
48. Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
49. Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee
50. Safe Roads Maryland

- 51. Severna Park Peloton
- 52. Southern Maryland Active Recreation and Transport Alliance (SMARTA)
- 53. Talbot Thrive
- 54. Terps4bikelanes
- 55. Velo City Riders Club
- 56. Visit Annapolis