



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress
51 Monroe Street, Suite 507
Rockville, Maryland 20850

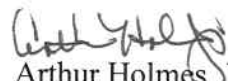
Dear Congressman Van Hollen:

I understand that the Montgomery County Bicyclist Group requested Fiscal Year 2011 funding for the Metropolitan Branch Trail. On behalf of Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) I am writing to express our support for consideration of this project.

For several years MCDOT has recognized the need to connect the Capital Crescent Trail in Bethesda, one of the most heavily used multi-use paths in the county, to downtown Silver Spring, as well as, to the existing segments of the Metropolitan Branch Trail in Takoma Park and the District of Columbia. This interstate connection will serve both recreational and transportation functions for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between and among Montgomery County, the District, and Prince George's County.

We continue to believe this connection would yield major benefits in safety and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians in a heavily used transportation corridor however, we have been unable to identify sufficient funding to proceed with the next phase of the project. We would appreciate your support for this important project.

Sincerely,


Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

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Office of the Director

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