



WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

2599 ONTARIO RD NW | WASHINGTON, DC 20009 | (202) 518-0524 | WABA.ORG

July 6, 2016

Park Superintendent
George Washington Memorial Parkway
c/o Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Superintendent Alex Romero,

On behalf of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), I am pleased to submit these comments for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the George Washington Memorial Parkway North Section Rehabilitation.

We urge National Park Service (NPS) to include bike facilities in the scope of this EA, specifically an extension of the Mount Vernon Trail to the north, within the project boundary.

The Mount Vernon Trail is a heavily used walking and biking trail. It is a beloved community asset that is used for both transportation and recreation. The trail allows visitors within the George Washington Memorial Parkway corridor to experience the park without a car, to slow down and explore the park's natural and cultural resources and to alleviate car traffic on the Parkway by providing an alternative commuting option.

In 2014, the trail counter at Mile 7 (near Dyke Marsh) on the Mount Vernon Trail counted 408,797 trail users (source: [NPS](#)). This access is key for bicyclists to move within the southern portion of the corridor. Please consider the same access within the northern portion of the Parkway corridor.

A [feasibility study](#) was completed by NPS in 2002 that examined an extension of the Mount Vernon Trail. If the scope of this EA is unable to include trail development in the north portion of the Parkway, please consider moving this feasibility study to the next stage.

This project entails a full pavement reconstruction and not just pavement mill and overlay. This is the right time to also include biking and walking infrastructure within the scope.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Environmental Assessment during the scoping phase. We look forward to working with you as this project progresses.

Sincerely,

Gregory Billing, Executive Director
Washington Area Bicyclist Association