



November 16, 2020

Mr. Christopher Barksdale, P.E.,  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Re: Boundary Channel Drive at I-395 Interchange Improvements

Dear Mr. Barksdale,

The Capital Trails Coalition wants to express support of the Boundary Channel Drive I-395 Interchange improvements. This project will provide a critical link to the Mount Vernon Trail for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Capital Trails Coalition (“the Coalition”) is a collaboration of over 60 public and private organizations, agencies, and citizen volunteers working to advance completion of an interconnected network of multi-use trails for the Washington Metropolitan Region. The Coalition convenes and coordinates among the public and private stakeholders who are critical to accomplishing the vision of an interconnected network.

We are very excited about the proposed shared-use path, but we want to ensure that the trail is designed to safely accommodate all trail users. We hope you will consider the following comments for the final design:

- 1) The trail should be designed for all bikes including tandems and cargo bikes. Cargo bikes and tandems are about (100" long) unlike a typical hybrid or road bike (typically 56"). This longer wheelbase cannot handle the tight turn radii that are shown in the concept plan.
- 2) This trail, which connects a major regional trail with a huge park, community facility and dense, walkable neighborhood should not be designed to the minimum shared use path width in the VDOT design manual (10'). We ask that the trail be extended to 12' wide. The south sidewalk, which doesn't currently connect anywhere, could be reduced to an 8' width to accommodate the increased width of the trail.



- 3) The ramp crossings, as currently envisioned, are likely to be extremely unsafe. The design needs to give strong cues to drivers to slow at these crosswalks. Raised crosswalks / speed tables would be best.

Overall, we are extremely excited about this project as it will be a major improvement to the regional trail network.

We hope you will take these comments into consideration before completing the final design.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Piperno*

Stephanie Piperno  
Trails Coalition Manager  
The Washington Area Bicyclist Association