January 7th, 2021

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 7000
Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

Dear Loudoun County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and its 5,000 members in the Washington Region, we are writing to express our concern over the sudden closure of White's Ferry. This is a tremendously important connection in our regional trail network, bicycle recreation and bicycle tourism. And we urge you to work with the neighboring counties and the Department of Transportation to come to a solution to get the ferry back up and running.

White's Ferry is a very important link for people who bike in the Washington area as there is no pedestrian or bike crossing of the Potomac River for the 44 miles between Chain Bridge and Point of Rocks. It is an irreplaceable connection for regional bicycle tourism between the 45-mile Washington and Old Dominion Trail and the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historic Park's 185-mile canal towpath. It is a very popular crossing for recreation riders looking to complete a century ride around the Washington, D.C. area or other well-known loop rides.

The ferry is also of great use to car commuters looking to shorten their Vehicle Miles Traveled between Leesburg, Va. and Poolesville, Md. This trip takes 26 miles by car, but just 12.4 miles via White's Ferry. We are not, however, support discussions of a new highway bridge at this location. The ferry's historic key role in regional transportation is undeniable and should be maintained.

For nearly 50 years the Washington Area Bicyclist Association has transformed the Washington Metropolitan Region by improving the conditions for people who bike. Our work to advocate for dedicated bike infrastructure, pass laws that promote safe roadway behavior, and provide education programming for all road-users has resulted in a community that fully embraces biking for transportation and recreation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Lowery

Jeremiah Lowery
Advocacy Director
Washington Area Bicyclist Association