



Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Prince George's County Planning Board Session

December 7, 2023

Chair Shapiro and Planning Board Members,

The Capital Trails Coalition seeks to create a world-class network of multi-use trails that are equitably distributed throughout the Washington D.C. metropolitan region. The regional trails network will transform public life by providing healthy, low-stress access to open space and reliable transportation for people of all ages and abilities.

As the manager of the Capital Trails Coalition, I submit comments on items 3C: the FY25 Proposed M-NCPPC Budget for Prince George's County - Part II and 3D: Proposed FY25-FY30 Capital Improvement Program.

**Item 3C: FY25 Proposed M-NCPPC Budget for Prince George's County – Part II**

We believe that Prince George's Parks and Recreation would benefit from establishing a formal trails program to oversee and support trail planning, design, engineering, and management functions cohesively. This gap cannot be adequately filled solely by hiring consultants and is not as coordinated when individuals from different silos are tasked with pieces of the process.

The parks system needs trails staff who understand on-the-ground conditions, regulatory requirements, and approval processes. Specific needs include traffic engineers to look at trail-road intersections and landscape architects with trail-design experience, as well as project managers skilled at implementing complex capital projects.

**Item 3D: PROPOSED FY25-FY30 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

We celebrate many elements of the proposed FY25-FY30 CIP to address the needs of changing and growing community with the goal of maintaining, expanding, and improving trails for transportation and recreation. We especially celebrate the increased focus on trails in the FY25-FY30 CIP and the investment in maintaining, renovating, and improving existing resources and systems.

We call for continued attention to two of the top requests heard during the budget forum:

- #8: Build the Central Avenue Connector Trail, and
- #11: Trail Development Countywide.

Advancing trails across the county is vitally important. As the Planning Board preparatory materials document, there is inequitable access to parks resources across the county, especially

in Central and Southern areas. Building out trails, especially to these areas, will improve community members' access to healthy, sustainable recreation and transportation options.

Over the past three decades, Prince George's County has built one of the most extensive and connected trail systems in the Washington, DC Region around the Anacostia River and its tributaries. Along with the Washington Baltimore & Annapolis Trail, the Henson Creek Trail and so many natural surface trails, these are cherished resources, bolstering public health, economic growth and community for residents. Trails support activity within parks, connect communities to parks, and play an increasingly vital role in transportation. The Department of Parks and Recreation and Planning Board should be proud of the trail system it has built.

Despite this success, the existing trail network only reaches a subset of the county, and needs substantial attention to meet increasing demand. Residents in Largo, Oxon Hill, and Glenarden see the benefits of the Anacostia trails, and rightfully want a trail near them that links into a broader network. They want safe, reliable options for getting around without a car, and they see new trails as the obvious choice. The Commission's own research showed that 79% of residents think it is very important to add, expand and improve trails in the county.

Completing the Central Avenue Connector Trail is one of the Capital Trails Coalition's top priority trails. The trail is a vital component of the Blue Line Corridor project, which will turn a suburban auto-centric community into an active, multimodal transit hub complemented by residential, retail, and entertainment amenities. The design of the trail Ensuring sufficient funding for this project is vital to ensure that the county is able to fully leverage funding secured through the 2023 RAISE Grant awarded earlier this year.

Proposals for the FY25 Proposed M-NCPPC Budget for Prince George's County and the FY25-FY30 Capital Improvement Program will help the county advance your goals of creating a high-quality network of multi-use trails.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and for your consideration of our suggestions.

Respectfully,

Kalli Krumpas  
*Capital Trails Coalition Manager*  
[kalli.krumpas@waba.org](mailto:kalli.krumpas@waba.org)