



May 13, 2024

County Executive Alsobrooks and County Council Members,

Prince George's County experienced 129 road deaths in 2023 including 39 pedestrians and three bicyclists. We've seen too many tragedies like the deaths of 5-year-old Sky Sosa and 10-year-old Shalom Mbah, killed in November walking to school in Riverdale Park. Therefore, as a highest FY25 budget priority, I urge you to:

- Sustain a strong Vision Zero focus in keeping with the County's commitment "to make our streets safe for everyone by 2040... eliminat[ing] all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all including people who walk, bike, drive, and use transit."

Prince George's County can make its streets safer – and encourage bicycling and walking, leading to a healthier county and reduced traffic congestion – via two capital budget priorities. Please:

- Sustain and expand bikeways planning, design, and construction funding including build-out of the Capital Trails Network in Prince George's County.
- Allocate capital funds to retrofit road-safety improvements per the new design standards you directed last year, via the Walkable Urban Streets Act.

Other investments will advance active transportation in Prince George's County – walking, biking, and other non-motor vehicle modes – in conjunction with strong transit support. Our vision is green mobility for Prince George's residents, visitors, businesses, and employees. Please:

- Add design and engineering staff focused on pedestrian-safety improvements, safe roadways, and bicycling infrastructure, to accelerate project development and construction, tapping federal and state transportation funding.
- Add Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) resources to pursue federal and state grant funding.
- Fund Bikeshare expansion with a focus on geographic equity to expand access to central and southern areas of the County.
- Create a Prince George's County e-bike purchase subsidy program, heavily income-qualified, to boost uptake of this ultra-green mobility solution. Washington DC's program, implemented in 2023, provides an excellent local example of what you can do without breaking the bank.

I am proud to add my voice as a Prince George's County stakeholder, calling for investment in safe streets and safe biking including a robust, safe, connected County bicycling network and the staff resources needed to carry out this work.

Sincerely,

Prince George's County residents:

Joseph McLaughlin
Nick Orban

Erin Sheehy
John Slattery

Khalilah Burks
Charles Trott

Craig Chester
Lauren Johnson
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Rosemarie Fettig
Yohannes Bennehoff
Norman Oslik
Christine Bloecker
Michael Iati
John Wright
Chris Leis
Chris Guadalupe
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Valerie Wray
Chelsea Champlin
Brooks Boliek
Fred Seitz
Jeri Boliek
Lissa Bell
Kevin Boyce
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Duane DeVance
Cate O'Brien
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Daniel Meyers
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Michele Snowden
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