



Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan Public Hearing
Montgomery County Planning Board

May 4, 2023

Chair Zyontz and Planning Board Members,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) offers brief comments on the Public Hearing draft of the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan.

WABA is a nonprofit organization with over 700 Montgomery County members. We envision a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around.

We fully endorse the draft master plan Transportation Goals found in Section 3.C and the steps outlined to achieve them.

We note and endorse Section 3.C.3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Recommendations including the creation of a continuous trail and path network with public-area and HOA connections, creation of sidewalks or sidepaths along all public roads, completion of the Breezeway Network along U.S. 29 and MD 200 within the plan area, and expanded Capital Bikeshare infrastructure. WABA would be pleased to support applications for federal planning and construction grants suggested in the master plan.

We note and endorse Short-Term Capital Improvement Program Priorities including, notably, study of the feasibility of road diets on major arterials. Lane narrowing and speed-limit reductions are essential steps toward advancing roadway safety for vulnerable road users.

The draft master plan is excellent work. Please approve it with any necessary revisions that come to light.

Finally, we hope to see planning of similar bicycle and pedestrian network improvements, in conjunction with the planning and construction of US 29 bus rapid transit, for the full extent of US 29 from the Washington, DC border to Howard County and on and along other identified Montgomery County transportation corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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