



Camp Meade Road Improvements

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From Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

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Support for Implementing “Complete Streets” on Camp Meade Road

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County ([BikeAAA](http://www.bikeaaa.org)) is an all-volunteer 501c3 promoting safe bicycling for transportation, recreation & fitness throughout Anne Arundel County. We originated as a project of the [Leadership Anne Arundel](#) Flagship program and now represent hundreds of cyclists. We support the commitment to *Complete Streets* by the state of Maryland and more recently by the Anne Arundel County Council. *Complete Streets* assures that investment in new roads and maintenance/renovation of existing roads will address the needs of multiple transportation modes including cars, trucks, bicycles and pedestrians. This nationally recognized strategy provides more safe transportation options at little incremental cost. Safe bicycle and pedestrian routes to work, school, shopping and other destinations reduces traffic, protects the environment, stimulates the local economy and addresses Anne Arundel’s #1 health issue – obesity. It prepares Anne Arundel County for the transportation demands of the current and next generation.

The stretch of Camp Meade Rd (Rt. 170) in Linthicum is part of a key bike route connector between Baltimore and the existing BWI Loop Trail. It is also part of the nationally recognized 2,900 mile East Coast Greenway which connects cities and towns from Maine to Key West. Anne Arundel County is fortunate to have the Greenway angle its way from Baltimore down to Annapolis and then on to D.C. Providing a safer route between Baltimore and the BWI loop encourages bicycling to numerous employment, education, shopping and recreation destinations around the airport and in Baltimore. For some, a bicycle is the only economic means of transportation and for others it is preferred for health, environmental and enjoyment reasons.

We are aware of and support the possibility of extending the existing BWI spur trail that parallels light rail northward to Twin Oaks and perhaps even further. This would provide an even safer off-road option to cyclists and pedestrians. But we also recognize the challenge of getting approvals and funding and therefore this possibility should not deter SHA from proceeding with the approved Camp Meade Rd. improvements.

The state of Maryland was recently ranked #7 in the nation for bicycle-friendliness and the commitment of MDOT to *Complete Streets* is an important component. We applaud SHA for initiating the Camp Meade Rd. project and obtaining federal funding to support it. We stand ready to support this and future projects that make Anne Arundel County a more livable, healthy, and economically attractive place to live, work and play.