



Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission

To: Steuart Pittman, Anne Arundel County Executive
Ramond Robinson, Transportation Director

CC: Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission

From: Jon Korin, Chair

Re: Separated Bicycle/pedestrian Facility on Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing

Date: April 16, 2021

The Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission unanimously supports the following position regarding a separated bicycle/pedestrian facilities in the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing Study:



We do not take a position on if or where a new span should be built. However, if a new span is built in any location or one of the existing spans is replaced or renovated then we insist that a separated bicycle/pedestrian lane be included. This has been done on recent bridges of similar length around the U.S. including the replacement Tappan Zee(see photo) and Pensacola Bay bridges. Locally, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge has such a facility which is quite popular and the planned American Legion replacement is expected to have one as well. In spite of the governor's announcement that the Nice Bridge replacement would include a separated bike/ped facility, it was left out of the final bridge design. These are once in a multi-generation opportunities which should not be wasted. These bicycle/pedestrian facilities are in line with Maryland's Complete Streets policy and are a tremendous draw for tourism especially over the iconic Chesapeake Bay. A safe bicycle/pedestrian lane over the Chesapeake Bay would also provide passageway for long distance national trails, including the Delaware-to-California American Discovery Trail and the complementary (alternate) route of the Maine-to-Florida East Coast Greenway between Wilmington, DE and Annapolis via Dover, DE and Chestertown, MD. The lane would provide safe access to and from the scenic and historic byways on the Eastern Shore that are so popular with cyclists as well as non-motorized transportation to and from communities on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay. The bike/ped lane could also provide emergency vehicle access on the bridge when needed.

Please specify a separated bicycle/pedestrian lane as a mandatory feature of any future Chesapeake Bay crossing as well as any other future bridges in Maryland.